CLC **Combined** Workbench

User manual

User manual for

CLC Combined Workbench 3.5

Windows, Mac OS X and Linux

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Part I

Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction to *CLC Combined Workbench*

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Welcome to *CLC Combined Workbench* — a software package supporting your daily bioinformatics work.

We strongly encourage you to read this user manual in order to get the best possible basis for working with the software package.

1.1 Contact information

The *CLC Combined Workbench* is developed by:

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E-mail: info@clcbio.com

If you have questions or comments regarding the program, you are welcome to contact our support function:

E-mail: support@clcbio.com

1.2 Download and installation

The *CLC Combined Workbench* is developed for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux. The software for either platform can be downloaded from http://www.clcbio.com/download.

Furthermore the program can be sent on a CD-Rom by regular mail. To receive the program by regular mail, please write an e-mail to support@clcbio.com, including your postal address.

1.2.1 Program download

The program is available for download on http://www.clcbio.com/download.

Before you download the program you are asked to fill in the **Download** dialog.

In the dialog you must choose:

- Which operating system you use
- Whether you want to include Java or not
  (this is necessary if you haven't already installed Java)
- Whether you would like to receive information about future releases

Depending on your operating system and your Internet browser, you are taken through some download options.

When the download of the installer (an application which facilitates the installation of the program) is complete, follow the platform specific instructions below to complete the installation procedure. [1]

[1] You must be connected to the Internet throughout the installation process, unless you have a pre-activated license - see section 1.4.2.

1.2.2 Installation on Microsoft Windows

Starting the installation process is done in one of the following ways:

If you have downloaded an installer:
Locate the downloaded installer and double-click the icon.
The default location for downloaded files is your desktop.

If you are installing from a CD:
Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive.

Choose the "Install *CLC Combined Workbench*" from the menu displayed.

If you already have Java installed on your computer you can choose "Install *CLC Combined Workbench* without Java".

Installing the program is done in the following steps:

- On the welcome screen, click **Next**.
- Read and accept the License agreement and click **Next**.
- Choose where you would like to install the application and click **Next**.
- Choose a name for the Start Menu folder used to launch *CLC Combined Workbench* and click **Next**.
- Choose if *CLC Combined Workbench* should be used to open CLC files and click **Next**.
- Choose where you would like to create shortcuts for launching *CLC Combined Workbench* and click **Next**.
- Choose if you would like to associate .clc files to *CLC Combined Workbench*. If you check this option, double-clicking a file with a "clc" extension will open the *CLC Combined Workbench*.
- Wait for the installation process to complete, choose whether you would like to launch *CLC Combined Workbench* right away, and click **Finish**.

When the installation is complete the program can be launched from the Start Menu or from one of the shortcuts you chose to create.

1.2.3 Installation on Mac OS X

Starting the installation process is done in one of the following ways:

If you have downloaded an installer:
Locate the downloaded installer and double-click the icon.
The default location for downloaded files is your desktop.

If you are installing from a CD:
Insert the CD into your CD-ROM drive and open it by double-clicking on the CD icon on your desktop.

Launch the installer by double-clicking on the "*CLC Combined Workbench*" icon.

Installing the program is done in the following steps:

- On the welcome screen, click **Next**.
- Read and accept the License agreement and click **Next**.
- Choose where you would like to install the application and click **Next**.
- Choose if *CLC Combined Workbench* should be used to open CLC files and click **Next**.
- Choose whether you would like to create desktop icon for launching *CLC Combined Workbench* and click **Next**.
- Choose if you would like to associate .clc files to *CLC Combined Workbench*. If you check this option, double-clicking a file with a "clc" extension will open the *CLC Combined Workbench*.
- Wait for the installation process to complete, choose whether you would like to launch *CLC Combined Workbench* right away, and click **Finish**.

When the installation is complete the program can be launched from your Applications folder, or from the desktop shortcut you chose to create. If you like, you can drag the application icon to the dock for easy access.

1.2.4 Installation on Linux with an installer

Navigate to the directory containing the installer and execute it. This can be done by running a command similar to:

```
# sh CLCCombinedWorkbench_3_JRE.sh
```

If you are installing from a CD the installers are located in the "linux" directory.

Installing the program is done in the following steps:

- On the welcome screen, click **Next**.
- Read and accept the License agreement and click **Next**.
- Choose where you would like to install the application and click **Next**.
  For a system-wide installation you can choose for example /opt or /usr/local. If you do not have root privileges you can choose to install in your home directory.
- Choose where you would like to create symbolic links to the program
  DO NOT create symbolic links in the same location as the application.
  Symbolic links should be installed in a location which is included in your environment PATH. For a system-wide installation you can choose for example /usr/local/bin. If you do not have root privileges you can create a 'bin' directory in your home directory and install symbolic links there. You can also choose not to create symbolic links.
- Wait for the installation process to complete and click **Finish**.

If you choose to create symbolic links in a location which is included in your PATH, the program can be executed by running the command:

```
# clccombinedwb3
```

Otherwise you start the application by navigating to the location where you choose to install it and running the command:

```
# ./clccombinedwb3
```

1.2.5 Installation on Linux with an RPM-package

Navigate to the directory containing the rpm-package and install it using the rpm-tool by running a command similar to:

```
# rpm -ivh CLCCombinedWorkbench_3_JRE.rpm
```

If you are installing from a CD the rpm-packages are located in the "RPMS" directory.
Installation of RPM-packages usually requires root-privileges.

When the installation process is finished the program can be executed by running the command:

```
# clccombinedwb3
```

1.3 System requirements

The system requirements of *CLC Combined Workbench* are these:

- Windows 2000, Windows XP or Windows Vista
- Mac OS X 10.3 or newer
- Linux: Redhat or SuSE
- 256 MB RAM required
- 512 MB RAM recommended
- 1024 x 768 display recommended

1.4 Licenses

When you have installed *CLC Combined Workbench*, three license set-ups are available:

- **Demo license for evaluating** *CLC Combined Workbench*(section 1.4.1). It is a fully functional 30 days license. Further evaluation time can be requested.
- **Fixed license** (section 1.4.3). With this license type, you purchase one license per computer that should run *CLC Combined Workbench*.
- **Floating license** *CLC Combined Workbench*(section 1.4.4). By installing a license server, all computers on the network can access a set of "floating" licenses.

The three license types are described below:

1.4.1 Demo license concept

We offer a fully functional demo version of *CLC Combined Workbench* to all users, free of charge. If you have already purchased *CLC Combined Workbench*, you can skip this section and go directly to section 1.4.3.

Each user is entitled to 30 days demo of *CLC Combined Workbench*. If you need more time for evaluating, another two weeks of demo can be requested.

We use the concept of *"quid quo pro"*. The last two weeks of free demo time given to you is therefore accompanied by a short-form questionnaire where you have the opportunity to give us feedback about the program. If the 30 days plus the two weeks are not enough time for evaluating the program, you can request more demo time.

The 30 days demo is offered for each major release of *CLC Combined Workbench*. You will therefore have the opportunity to try the next major version when it is released. (If you purchase *CLC Combined Workbench* the first year of updates is included.)

Internet connection is required for a demo license

To prevent unauthorized use of the program, you must be connected to the Internet while starting up a demo version of *CLC Combined Workbench*. An additional online check will be conducted 24 hours after the first start of the workbench. After running *CLC Combined Workbench* for 24 hours, if you are not connected to the Internet, you will be met with the dialog shown in figure 1.1.

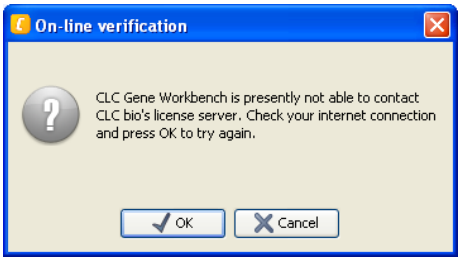

Figure 1.1: *This dialog appears when an online license check is conducted by* **CLC Combined Workbench***, and the computer is offline. Either at start-up or after 24 hours.*

You can then connect to the Internet and retry or you can save your work and close the program. You can run the workbench again later, as long as you are connected to the Internet at start-up.

If being online while evaluating is a problem, please contact support@clcbio.com.

1.4.2 Getting and activating the demo license

When you start the program for the first time, you will be presented with the dialog shown in figure 1.2.

If you connect to the internet via a proxy server, click the proxy settings button. Otherwise, just click the **Request evaluation license** button in order to get a license key for a demo of *CLC Combined Workbench*.

Now, our server will issue an evaluation license. This process might take a while depending on your internet connection. If you get an error while requesting a license, please see section 1.4.2.

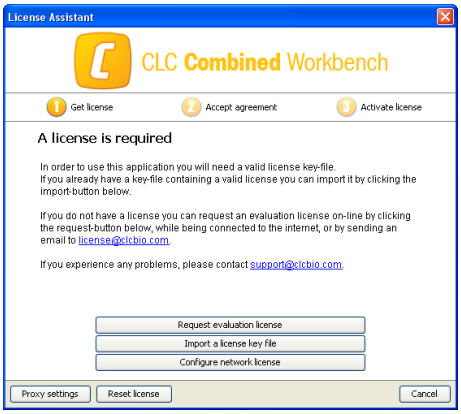

Figure 1.2: *Selecting "Request evaluation license".*

When the license key is received, you will be asked to accept the **License agreement** shown in figure 1.3.

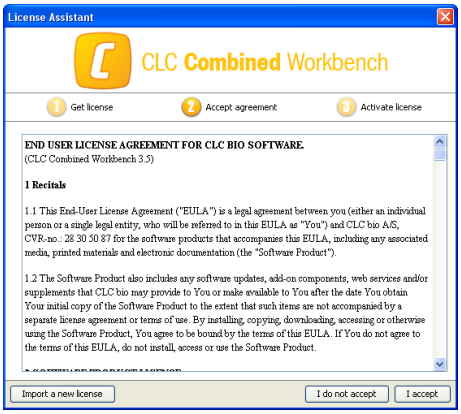

Figure 1.3: *License Agreement.*

Please read the License agreement carefully before clicking **I accept**. In the next step shown in figure 1.4, select **Activate license**. Again, you might have to wait a few seconds while the license key is being activated on our server. The license is locked to your computer, and therefore it can be used by anyone using that computer.

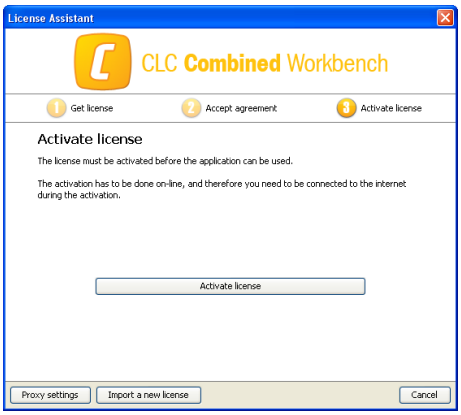

Figure 1.4: *Activate the license key.*

Now the license key is activated on your computer, and *CLC Combined Workbench* starts.

In all steps of the license dialog you have an option of resetting the license. This will allow you to start over, importing another license. However, information about which licenses were used on the computer is stored to prevent unauthorized use of demo licenses.

Problems with online activation

If you have problems activating the license online, *CLC Combined Workbench* also offers you an opportunity to manually activate your license key.

The problem is most likely to occur if *CLC Combined Workbench* is unable to establish contact with our server. This may be due to problems with your internet connection or because your computer has restricted access to the internet. In this case you will see a dialog similar to the one shown in figure 1.9.

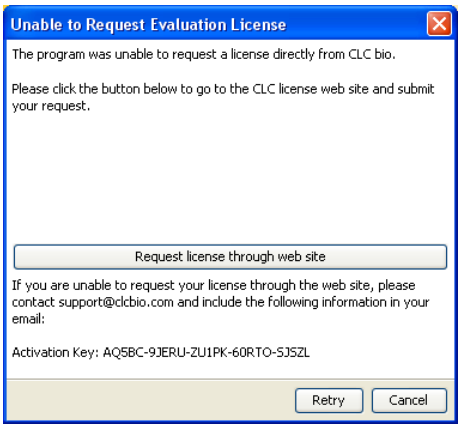

Figure 1.5: *If you cannot get a license automatically.*

In this case, click **Request license through web site** to go to a web page where you can make a request for a license. Please fill out the form on the web site, and we will send you an email with a pre-activated license as soon as possible.

If you know that you are using a proxy server to connect to the internet, click **Cancel** and click **Proxy Settings** in the license dialog.

1.4.3 Fixed license

Unlike the demo version, the fixed license is fully functional offline. You can purchase licenses which are valid for a specified period of time, or you can purchase license which will be valid forever. When you buy a license for *CLC Combined Workbench*, we will provide you with a license key which is activated as described here.

Start *CLC Combined Workbench*, and the dialog shown in figure 1.6 will appear [2]:

Choose the option **Import a license key file** in order to specify where your license key is located. Select the license key file provided by CLC bio. If the license key was sent to you by email, you have to save to e.g. your desktop first. When you have selected this file, the **License Agreement** is shown (see figure 1.7).

[2] If the program is already activated with another license, go to the **Help** menu and click **Upgrade License**. This will bring up the dialog shown in figure 1.6.

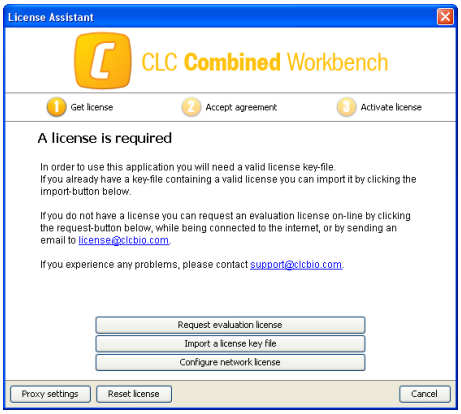

Figure 1.6: *Select "Import a license key file".*

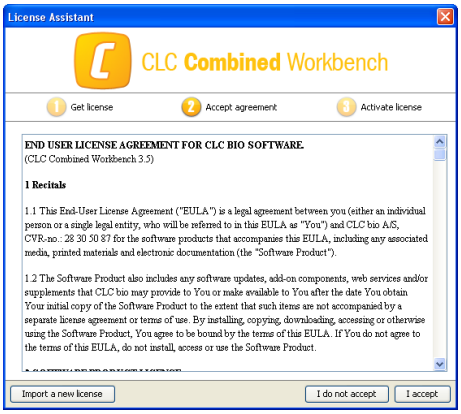

Figure 1.7: *Read the License Agreement carefully.*

Read the **License Agreement** carefully before clicking the **I accept** button.

In the next step[3] shown in figure 1.8, click the **Activate license** button.

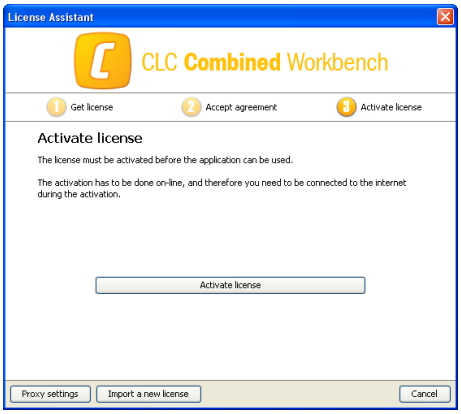

Figure 1.8: *Activate the license key online.*

Your computer must be connected to the internet in order to activate the license. Once the license is activated, you can work offline. It will take a few seconds to activate the license key. When the license key is activated, *CLC Combined Workbench* will start.

A license is locked to a specific computer, and therefore it can be used by anyone using that

[3] If you have received a pre-activated license key, this step will not be shown.

computer. If at some time you want to transfer the license to another computer, please contact support@clcbio.com.

Problems with online activation

If you have problems activating the license online, *CLC Combined Workbench* also offers you an opportunity to manually activate your license key.

The problem is most likely to occur if *CLC Combined Workbench* is unable to establish contact with our server. This may be due to problems with your internet connection or because your computer has restricted access to the internet. In this case you will see a dialog similar to the one shown in figure 1.9.

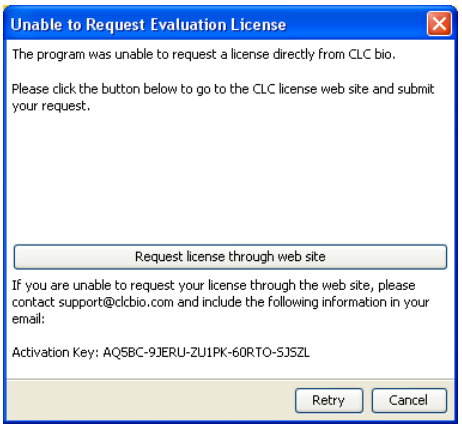

Figure 1.9: *If you cannot get a license automatically.*

In this case, click **Request license through web site** to go to a web page where you can make a request for a license. Please fill out the form on the web site, and we will send you an email with a pre-activated license as soon as possible.

If you know that you are using a proxy server to connect to the internet, click **Cancel** and click **Proxy Settings** in the license dialog.

1.4.4 Floating license

If you organization has installed a license server, you can use a floating license. The license server has a set of licenses that can be used on all computers on the network. If the server has e.g. 10 licenses, it means that maximum 10 computers can use a license *simultaneously*.

To use a floating license, select **Connect to a license server** in the dialog shown in figure 1.6. This will bring up the dialog shown in figure 1.10

This dialog lets you specify how to connect to the license server:

- **Connect to a license server**. Check this option if you wish to use the license server.
- **Automatically detect license server**. By checking this option you do not have to enter more information to connect to the server.
- **Manually specify license server**. There can be technical limitations which mean that the

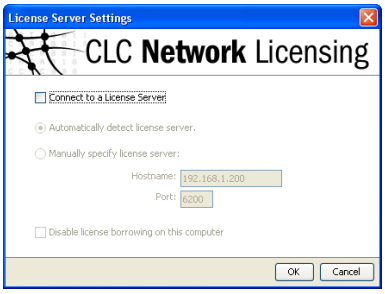

Figure 1.10: *Activate the license key.*

license server cannot be detected automatically, and in this case you need to specify more options manually:

  - **Host name**. Enter the address for the licenser server.
  - **Port**. Specify which port to use.

- **Disable license borrowing on this computer**. If you do not want users of the computer to borrow a license (see section 1.4.4), you can check this option.

Borrow a license

A floating license can only be used when you are connected to the license server. If you wish to use the *CLC Combined Workbench* when you are not connected to the server, you can *borrow* a license. Borrowing a license means that you take one of the floating licenses available on the server and borrow it for a specified amount of time. During this time period, there will be one less floating license available on the server.

At the point where you wish to borrow a license, you have to be connected to the license server. The procedure for borrowing is this:

1. Click **Help** | **License Manager** to display the dialog shown in figure 1.13.
2. Use the checkboxes to select the license(s) that you wish to borrow.
3. Select how long time you wish to borrow the license, and click **Borrow Licenses**.
4. You can now go offline and work with *CLC Combined Workbench*.
5. When the borrow time period has elapsed, you have to connect to the license server again to use *CLC Combined Workbench*.
6. When the borrow time period has elapsed, the license server will make the floating license available for other users.

Note that the time period is not the period of time that you actually use the Workbench.

Note! When your organization's license server is installed, license borrowing can be turned off. In that case, you will not be able to borrow licenses.

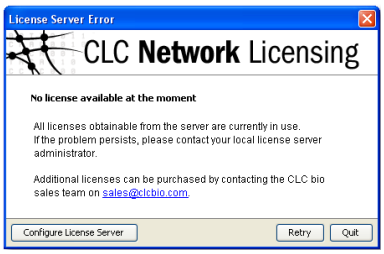

Figure 1.11: *No more licenses available on the server.*

No license available...

If all the licenses on the server are in use, you will see a dialog as shown in figure 1.11 when you start the Workbench.

In this case, please contact your organization's license server administrator. To purchase additional licenses, contact sales@clcbio.com.

If your connection to the license server is lost, you will see a dialog as shown in figure 1.12.

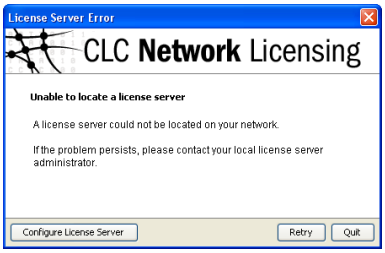

Figure 1.12: *Unable to contact license server.*

In this case, you need to make sure that you have access to the license server, and that the server is running.

1.4.5 Upgrading or changing licenses

If you start the Workbench without a valid license, a dialog similar to the one in figure 1.2 will be shown.

However, there may be situations where you wish to use another license, or see information about the license you currently use. In this case, open the license manager:

Help | License Manager ( )

The license manager is shown in figure 1.13.

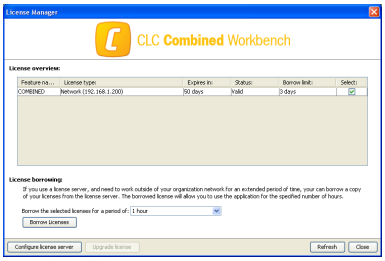

Figure 1.13: *The license manager.*

Besides letting you borrow licenses (see section 1.4.4), this dialog can be used to:

- See information about the license (e.g. what kind of license, when it expires)
- Configure how to connect to a license server (**Configure License Server** the button at the lower left corner). Clicking this button will display a dialog similar to figure 1.10.
- Upgrade from an evaluation license to a fixed license by clicking the **Upgrade license** button. Follow the description in section 1.4.3.

If you wish to switch from using a floating license to a fixed license, click **Configure License Server** and choose not to connect to a license server in the dialog. When you restart *CLC Combined Workbench*, you will be asked for a license, and you can then provide the license key file for the fixed license as described in section 1.4.3.

1.5 About CLC Workbenches

In November 2005 CLC bio released two Workbenches: *CLC Free Workbench* and *CLC Protein Workbench*. *CLC Protein Workbench* is developed from the free version, giving it the well-tested user friendliness and look & feel. However, the *CLC Protein Workbench* includes a range of more advanced analyses.

In March 2006, *CLC DNA Workbench* (formerly known as *CLC Gene Workbench* and *CLC Combined Workbench* were added to the product portfolio of CLC bio. Like *CLC Protein Workbench*, *CLC DNA Workbench* builds on *CLC Free Workbench*. It shares some of the advanced product features of *CLC Protein Workbench*, and it has additional advanced features. *CLC Combined Workbench* holds all basic and advanced features of the *CLC Workbenches*.

In June 2007, *CLC RNA Workbench* was released as a sister product of *CLC Protein Workbench* and *CLC DNA Workbench*. *CLC Combined Workbench* now also includes all the features of *CLC RNA Workbench*.

For an overview of which features all the workbenches include, see `http://www.clcbio.com/features`.

In December 2006, CLC bio released a **Software Developer Kit** which makes it possible for anybody with a knowledge of programming in Java to develop plug-ins for the workbenches. The plug-ins are fully integrated with the CLC Workbenches and provide an easy way to customize and extend their functionalities.

All workbenches will be improved continuously. If you have a CLC Free Workbench or a commercial workbench, and you are interested in receiving news about updates, you should register your e-mail and contact data on `http://www.clcbio.com`, if you haven't already registered when you downloaded the program.

1.5.1 New program feature request

The CLC team is continuously improving the workbench with our users' interests in mind. Therefore, we welcome all requests and feedback from users, and hope suggest new features or more general improvements to the program on support@clcbio.com.

1.5.2 Report program errors

CLC bio is doing everything possible to eliminate program errors. Nevertheless, some errors might have escaped our attention. If you discover an error in the program, you can use the **Report a Program Error** function in the **Help** menu of the program to report it. In the **Report a Program Error** dialog you are asked to write your e-mail address (optional). This is because we would like to be able to contact you for further information about the error or for helping you with the problem.

Note! No personal information is sent via the error report. Only the information which can be seen in the **Program Error Submission Dialog** is submitted.

You can also write an e-mail to support@clcbio.com. Remember to specify how the program error can be reproduced.

All errors will be treated seriously and with gratitude.

We appreciate your help.

Start in safe mode

If the program becomes unstable on start-up, you can start it in **Safe mode**. This is done by pressing and holding down the Shift button while the program starts.

When starting in safe mode, the user settings (e.g. the settings in the **Side Panel**) are deleted and cannot be restored. Your data stored in the **Navigation Area** is not deleted. When the workbench has been started in safe mode, some of the functionalities are missing, and you will have to restart the workbench again (without pressing Shift).

1.5.3 Free vs. commercial workbenches

The advanced analyses of the commercial workbenches, *CLC Protein Workbench*, *CLC RNA Workbench* and *CLC DNA Workbench* are not present in *CLC Free Workbench*. Likewise, some advanced analyses are available in *CLC DNA Workbench* but not in *CLC RNA Workbench* or *CLC Protein Workbench*, and visa versa. All types of basic and advanced analyses are available in *CLC Combined Workbench*.

However, the output of the commercial workbenches can be viewed in all other workbenches. This allows you to share the result of your advanced analyses from e.g. *CLC Combined Workbench*, with people working with e.g. *CLC Free Workbench*. They will be able to view the results of your analyses, but not redo the analyses.

The CLC Workbenches are developed for Windows, Mac and Linux platforms. Data can be exported/imported between the different platforms in the same easy way as when exporting/importing between two computers with e.g. Windows.

1.6 When the program is installed: Getting started

CLC Combined Workbench includes an extensive **Help** function, which can be found in the **Help** menu of the program's **Menu bar**. The **Help** can also be shown by pressing F1. The help topics are sorted in a table of contents and the topics can be searched.

We also recommend our **Online presentations** where a product specialist from CLC bio demonstrates features of the workbenches. This is a very easy way to get started using the program. Read more about online presentations here: http://clcbio.com/presentation.

1.6.1 Quick start

When the program opens for the first time, the background of the workspace is visible. In the background are three quick start shortcuts, which will help you getting started. These can be seen in figure 1.14.

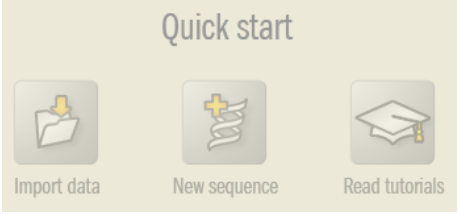

Figure 1.14: *Three available Quick start short cuts, available in the background of the workspace.*

The function of the three quick start shortcuts is explained here:

- **Import data.** Opens the **Import** dialog, which you let you browse for, and import data from your file system.
- **New sequence.** Opens a dialog which allows you to enter your own sequence.
- **Read tutorials.** Opens the tutorials menu with a number of tutorials. These are also available from the **Help** menu in the **Menu bar**.

1.6.2 Import of example data

It might be easier to understand the logic of the program by trying to do simple operations on existing data. Therefore *CLC Combined Workbench* includes an example data set.

When downloading *CLC Combined Workbench* you are asked if you would like to import the example data set. If you accept, the data is downloaded automatically and saved in the program. If you didn't download the data, or for some other reason need to download the data again, you have two options:

You can click **Install Example Data** ( ) in the **Help** menu of the program. This installs the data automatically. You can also go to http://www.clcbio.com/download and download the example data from there.

If you download the file from the website, you need to import it into the program. See chapter 7.1 for more about importing data.

1.7 Extending the workbench with plug-ins

When you install *CLC Combined Workbench*, it has a standard set of features. However, you can upgrade and customize the program using a variety of plug-ins.

As the range of plug-ins is continuously updated and expanded, they will not be listed here. Instead we refer to http://www.clcbio.com/plug-ins for a full list of plug-ins with descriptions of their functionalities.

1.7.1 Installing plug-ins

Plug-ins are installed using the plug-in manager[4]:

Help in the Menu Bar | Install Plug-ins ( )

or **Plug-ins ( ) in the Toolbar**

The plug-in manager has four tabs at the top:

- **Manage Plug-ins.** This is an overview of plug-ins that are installed.
- **Download Plug-ins.** This is an overview of available plug-ins on CLC bio's server.
- **Manage Resources.** This is an overview of resources that are installed.
- **Download Resources.** This is an overview of available resources on CLC bio's server.

To install a plug-in, click the **Download Plug-ins** tab. This will display an overview of the plug-ins that are available for download and installation (see figure 1.15).

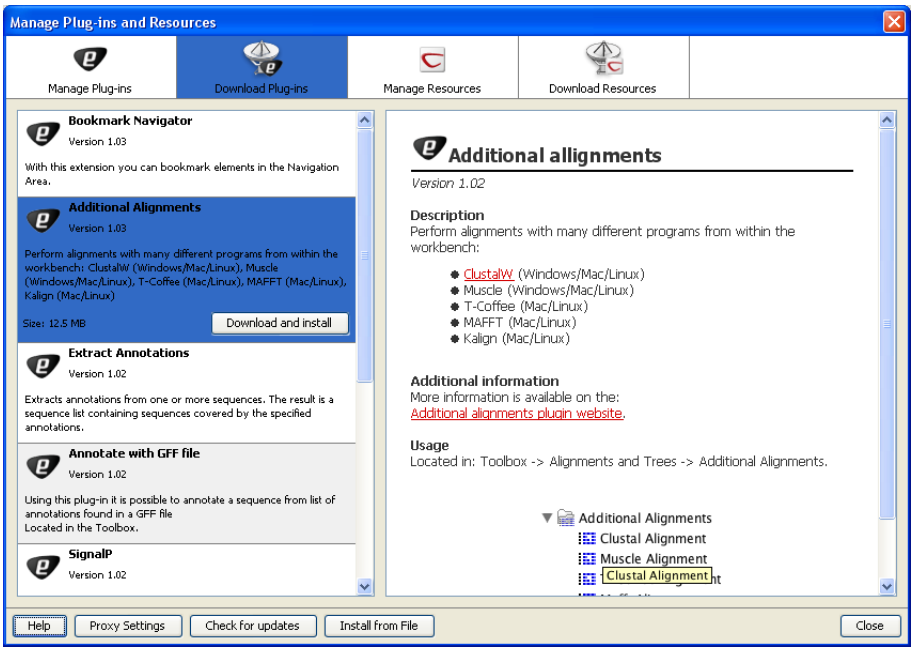

Figure 1.15: *The plug-ins that are available for download.*

Clicking a plug-in will display additional information at the right side of the dialog. This will also display a button: **Download and Install**.

[4] In order to install plug-ins on Windows Vista, the Workbench must be run in administrator mode: Right-click the program shortcut and choose "Run as Administrator". Then follow the procedure described below. When you start the Workbench after installing the plug-in, it should also be run in administrator mode.

Click the plug-in and press **Download and Install**. A dialog displaying progress is now shown, and the plug-in is downloaded and installed.

If the plug-in is not shown on the server, and you have it on your computer (e.g. if you have downloaded it from our web-site), you can install it by clicking the **Install from File** button at the bottom of the dialog. This will open a dialog where you can browse for the plug-in. The plug-in file should be a file of the type ".cpa".

When you close the dialog, you will be asked whether you wish to restart the workbench. The plug-in will not be ready for use before the workbench is restarted.

1.7.2 Uninstalling plug-ins

Plug-ins are uninstalled using the plug-in manager:

Help in the Menu Bar | **Install Plug-ins** ( )

or **Plug-ins** ( ) **in the Toolbar**

This will open the dialog shown in figure 1.16.

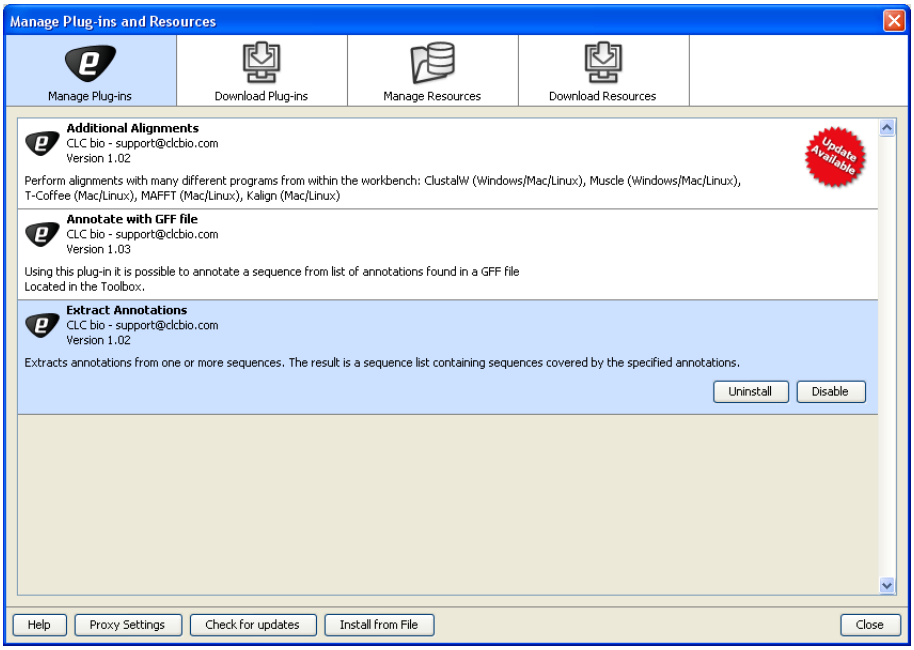

Figure 1.16: *The plug-in manager with plug-ins installed.*

The installed plug-ins are shown in this dialog. To uninstall:

Click the plug-in | **Uninstall**

If you do not wish to completely uninstall the plug-in but you don't want it to be used next time you start the Workbench, click the **Disable** button.

When you close the dialog, you will be asked whether you wish to restart the workbench. The plug-in will not be uninstalled before the workbench is restarted.

1.7.3 Updating plug-ins

If a new version of a plug-in is available, you will get a notification when the Workbench starts as shown in figure 1.17.

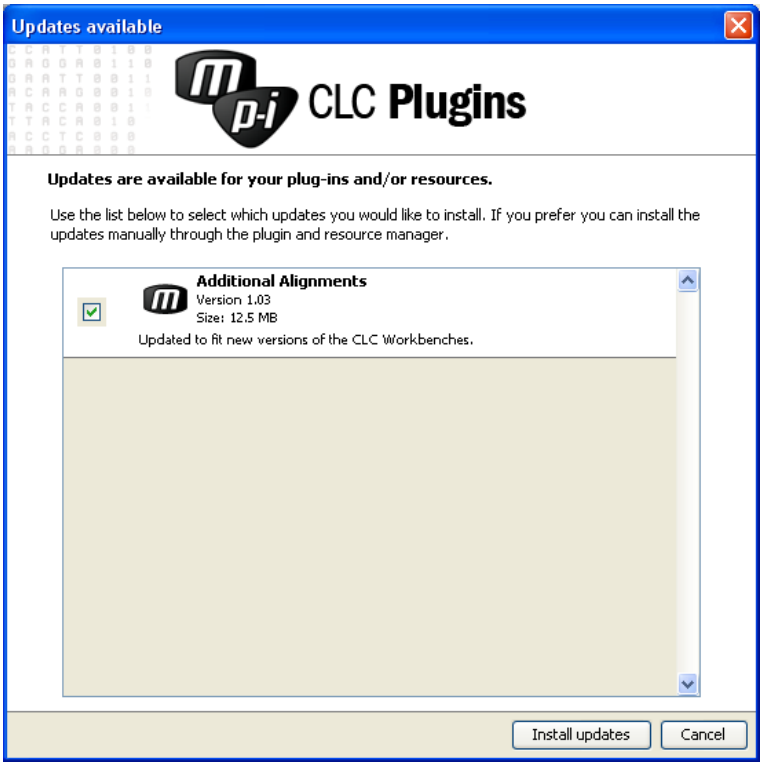

Figure 1.17: *Plug-in updates.*

In this list, select which plug-ins you wish to update, and click **Install Updates**. If you press **Cancel** you will be able to install the plug-ins later by clicking **Check for Updates** in the Plug-in manager (see figure 1.16).

1.7.4 Resources

Resources are downloaded, installed, un-installed and updated the same way as plug-ins. Click the **Download Resources** tab at the top of the plug-in manager, and you will see a list of available resources (see figure 1.18).

Currently, the only resources available are PFAM databases (for use with *CLC Protein Workbench* and *CLC Combined Workbench*).

Because procedures for downloading, installation, uninstallation and updating are the same as for plug-ins see section 1.7.1 and section 1.7.2 for more information.

1.8 Network configuration

If you use a proxy server to access the Internet you must configure *CLC Combined Workbench* to use this. Otherwise you will not be able to perform any online activities (e.g. searching GenBank). *CLC Combined Workbench* supports the use of a HTTP-proxy and an anonymous SOCKS-proxy.

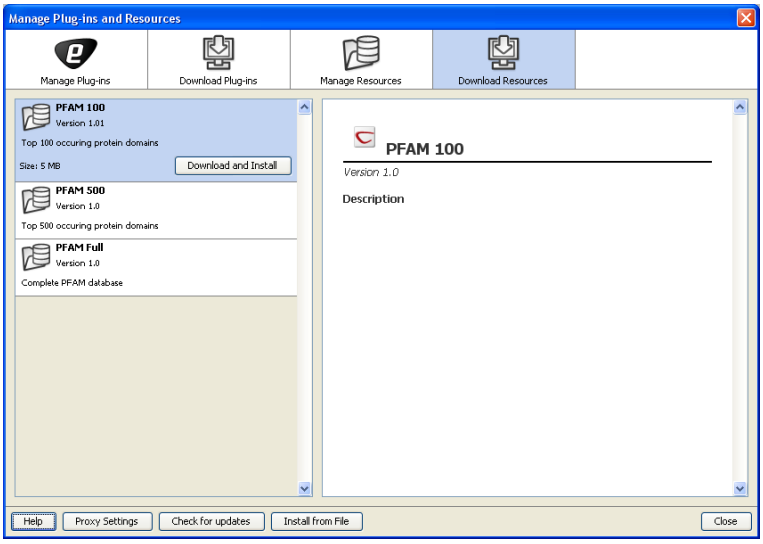

Figure 1.18: *Resources available for download.*

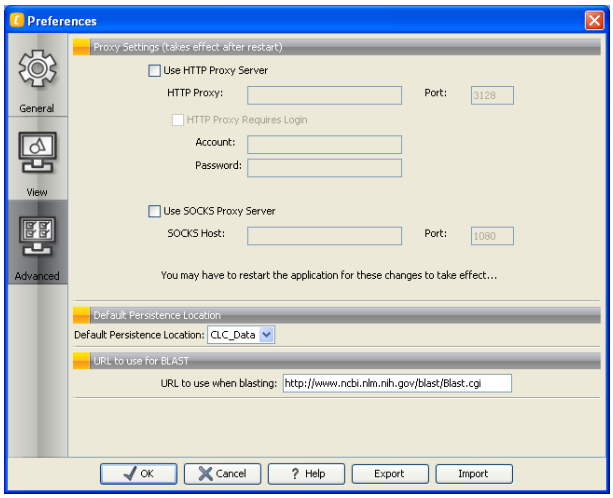

Figure 1.19: *Adjusting proxy preferences.*

To configure your proxy settings, open *CLC Combined Workbench*, and go to the **Advanced**-tab of the **Preferences** dialog (figure 1.19) and enter the appropriate information. The **Preferences** dialog is opened from the **Edit** menu.

You have the choice between a HTTP-proxy and a SOCKS-proxy. *CLC Combined Workbench* only supports the use of a SOCKS-proxy that does not require authorization.

If you have any problems with these settings you should contact your systems administrator.

1.9 The format of the user manual

This user manual offers support to Windows, Mac OS X and Linux users. The software is very similar on these operating systems. In areas where differences exist, these will be described separately. However, the term "right-click" is used throughout the manual, but some Mac users may have to use Ctrl+click in order to perform a "right-click" (if they have a single-button mouse).

The most recent version of the user manuals can be downloaded from `http://www.clcbio.`

com/usermanuals.

The user manual consists of four parts.

- The **first part** includes the introduction and some tutorials showing how to apply the most significant functionalities of *CLC Combined Workbench*.
- The **second part** describes in detail how to operate all the program's basic functionalities.
- The **third part** digs deeper into some of the bioinformatic features of the program. In this part, you will also find our "Bioinformatics explained" sections. These sections elaborate on the algorithms and analyses of *CLC Combined Workbench* and provide more general knowledge of bioinformatic concepts.
- The **fourth part** is the Appendix and Index.

Each chapter includes a short table of contents.

1.9.1 Text formats

In order to produce a clearly laid-out content in this manual, different formats are applied:

- A feature in the program is in bold starting with capital letters. (Example: **Navigation Area**)
- An explanation of how a particular function is activated, is illustrated by "|" and bold. (E.g.: **select the element** | **Edit** | **Rename**)

Chapter 2

Tutorials

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This chapter contains tutorials representing some of the features of *CLC Combined Workbench*. The first tutorials are meant as a short introduction to operating the program. The last tutorials give examples of how to use some of the main features of *CLC Combined Workbench*.

The tutorials are also available as interactive Flash tutorials on http://www.clcbio.com/tutorials.

2.1 Tutorial: Getting started

This brief tutorial will take you through the most basic steps of working with *CLC Combined Workbench*. The tutorial introduces the user interface, shows how to create a folder, and demonstrates how to import your own existing data into the program.

When you open *CLC Combined Workbench* for the first time, the user interface looks like figure 2.1.

At this stage, the important issues are the **Navigation Area** and the **View Area**.

The **Navigation Area** to the left is where you keep all your data for use in the program. Most analyses of *CLC Combined Workbench* require that the data is saved in the **Navigation Area**. There are several ways to get data into the **Navigation Area**, and this tutorial describes how to import existing data.

The **View Area** is the main area to the right. This is where the data can be 'viewed'. In general, a **View** is a display of a piece of data, and the **View Area** can include several **Views**. The **Views** are represented by tabs, and can be organized e.g. by using 'drag and drop'.

2.1.1 Creating a a folder

When *CLC Combined Workbench* is started there is one element in the **Navigation Area** called **CLC_Data**[1]. This element is a **Location**. A location points to a folder on your computer where your data for use with *CLC Combined Workbench* is stored.

The data in the location can be organized into folders. Create a folder:

File | **New** | **Folder (** **)**
or **Ctrl + Shift + N (⌘ + Shift + N on Mac)**

[1] If you have downloaded the example data, this will be placed as a folder in *CLC_Data*

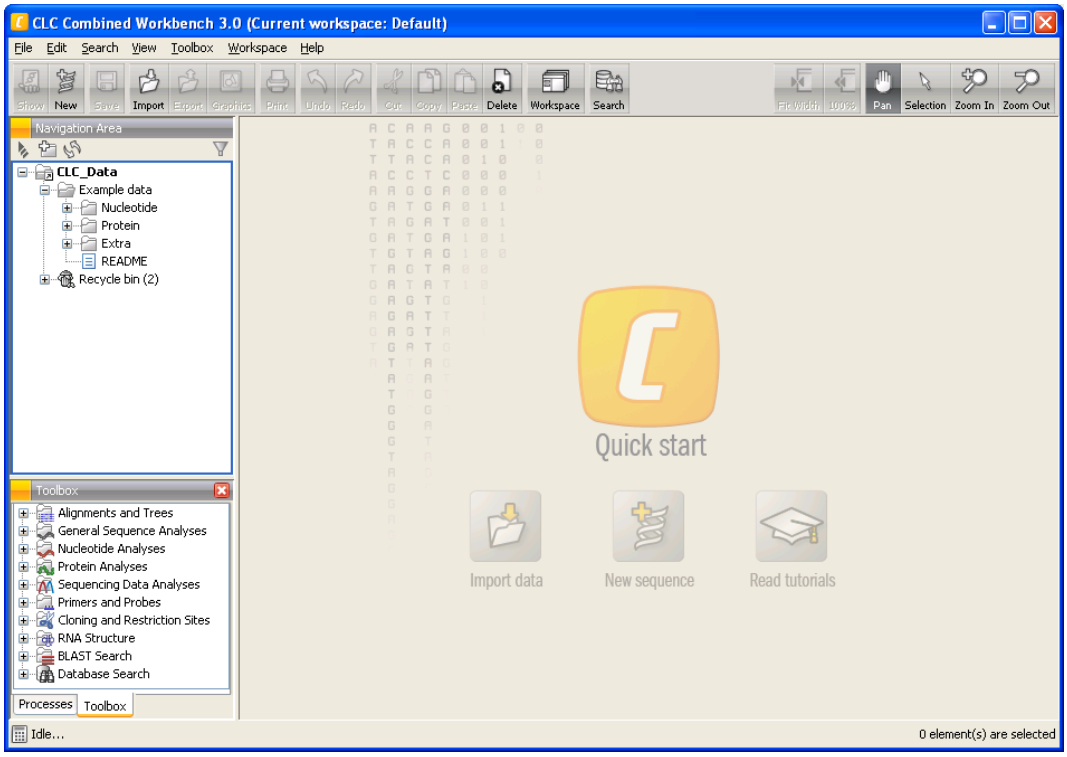

Figure 2.1: *The user interface as it looks when you start the program for the first time. (Windows version of* **CLC Combined Workbench***. The interface is similar for Mac and Linux.)*

Name the folder 'My folder' and press **Enter**.

2.1.2 Import data

Next, we want to import a sequence called HUMDINUC.fsa (FASTA format) from our own Desktop into the new 'My folder'. (This file is chosen for demonstration purposes only - you may have another file on your desktop, which you can use to follow this tutorial. You can import all kinds of files.)

In order to import the HUMDINUC.fsa file:

> **Select 'My folder'** | **Import (**) **in the Toolbar** | **navigate to HUMDINUC.fsa on the desktop** | **Select**

The sequence is imported into the folder that was selected in the **Navigation Area**, before you clicked **Import**. Double-click the sequence in the **Navigation Area** to view it. The final result looks like figure 2.2.

2.1.3 Supported data formats

CLC Combined Workbench can import and export the following formats:

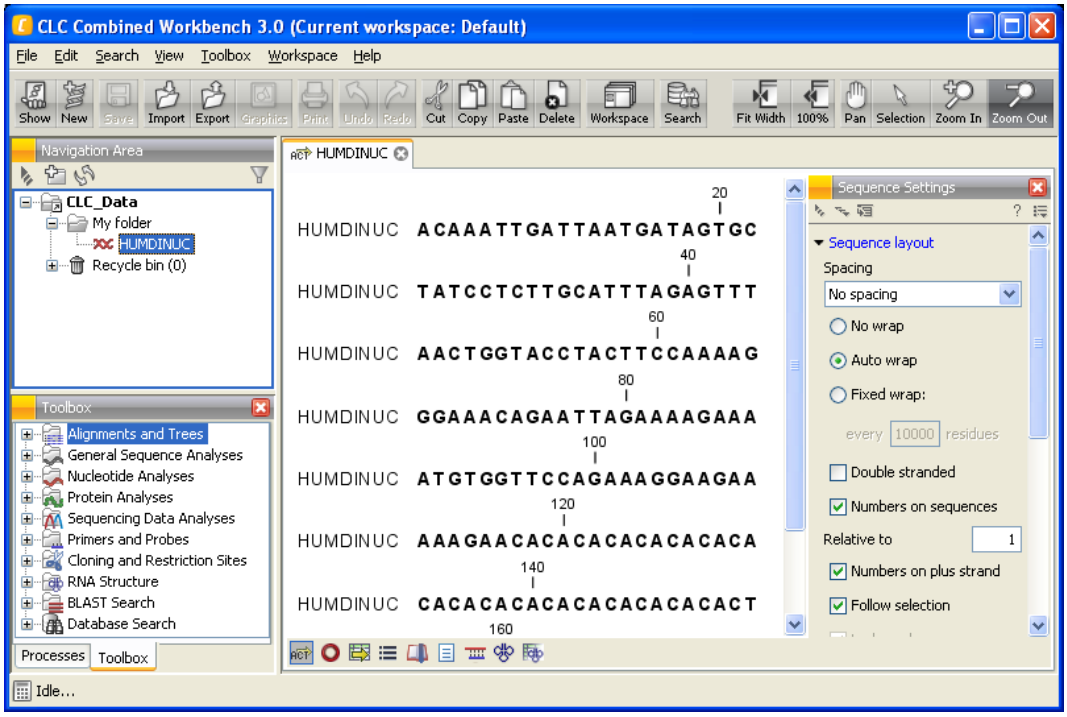

Figure 2.2: *The HUMDINUC file is imported and opened.*

File type	Suffix	File format used for
ACE files	.ace	contigs
Phylip Alignment	.phy	alignments
GCG Alignment	.msf	alignments
Clustal Alignment	.aln	alignments
Newick	.nwk	trees
FASTA	.fsa/.fasta	sequences
GenBank	.gbk/.gb/.gp	sequences
GCG sequence	.gcg	sequences (only import)
PIR (NBRF)	.pir	sequences (only import)
Staden	.sdn	sequences (only import)
DNAstrider	.str/.strider	sequences
Swiss-Prot	.swp	protein sequences
Lasergene sequence	.pro	protein sequence (only import)
Lasergene sequence	.seq	nucleotide sequence (only import)
Embl	.embl	nucleotide sequences
Nexus	.nxs/.nexus	sequences, trees, alignments, and sequence lists
CLC	.clc	sequences, trees, alignments, reports, etc.
Text	.txt	all data in a textual format
CSV	.csv	tables, each cell separated with semicolons (only export)
ABI	.abi	trace files (only import)
AB1	.ab1	trace files (only import)
SCF2	.scf	trace files (only import)
SCF3	.scf	trace files (only import)
Phred	.phd	trace files (only import)
mmCIF	.cif	structure (only import)
PDB	.pdb	structure (only import)
BLAST Database	.phr/.nhr	BLAST database (import)
Vector NTi Database		sequences (import of whole database)
VectorNTI achieves	.ma4/.pa4/.oa4	sequences (only import)
Gene Construction Kit	.gcc	sequences (only import)
RNA Structure	.ct/.col/.rnaml/.xml	RNA structures
Preferences	.cpf	CLC workbench preferences

Note! *CLC Combined Workbench* can import 'external' files, too. This means that all kinds of files can be imported and displayed in the **Navigation Area**, but the above mentioned formats are the only ones whose *contents* can be shown in *CLC Combined Workbench*.

2.2 Tutorial: View sequence

This brief tutorial will take you through some different ways to display a sequence in the program. The tutorial introduces zooming on a sequence, dragging tabs, and opening selection in new view.

We will be working with the protein sequence 'NP_058652' located in the 'Protein' folder under 'Sequences'. Double-click the sequence in the **Navigation Area** to open it. The sequence is displayed with annotations above it. (See figure 2.3).

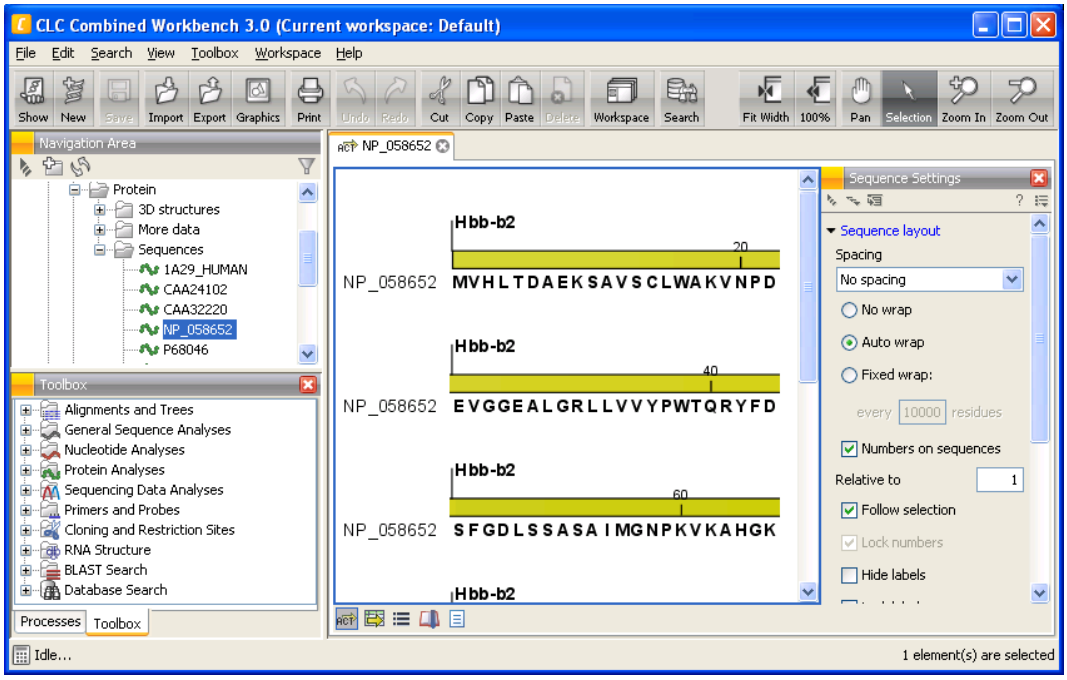

Figure 2.3: *Protein sequence 'NP_058652' opened in a view.*

As default, *CLC Combined Workbench* displays a sequence with annotations (colored arrows on the sequence) and zoomed to see the residues.

In this tutorial we want to have an overview of the whole sequence. Hence;

> **click Zoom Out ( ) in the Toolbar | click the sequence until you can see the whole sequence**

In the following we will show how the same sequence can be displayed in two different views:

> **double-click sequence 'NP_058652' in the Navigation Area**

This opens an additional tab. Drag this tab to the bottom of the view. (See figure 2.4).

The result is two views of the same sequence in the **View Area**, as can be seen in figure 2.5.

If you want to display a part of the sequence, it is possible to select it, and open it in another view:

Figure 2.4: *Dragging the tab down to the bottom of the view will display a gray area indicating that the tab can be "dropped" here and split the view.*

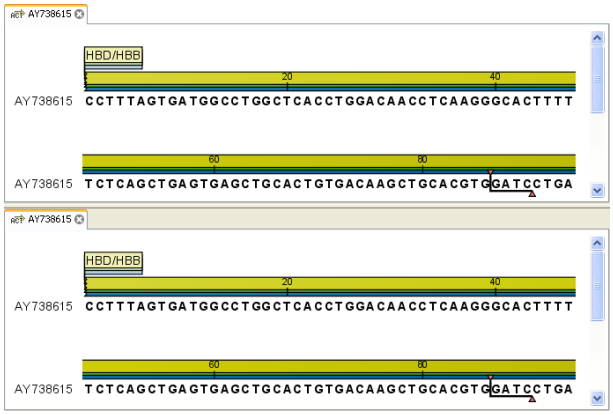

Figure 2.5: *The resulting two views which are split horizontally.*

click Selection ( ) in Toolbar | select a part of the sequence | right-click the selected part of the sequence in the top view | Open Selection in New View ( )

This opens a third display of sequence 'NP_058652'. However, only the part which was selected. In order to make room for displaying the selection of the sequence (the most recent view), drag the tab of the view down, next to the tab of the bottom view.

2.3 Tutorial: Side Panel Settings

This brief tutorial will show you how to use the **Side Panel** to change the way your sequences, alignments and other data are shown. You will also see how to save the changes that you made in the **Side Panel** .

Open the protein alignment located under Protein->More data in the **Example data**. The initial view of the alignment has colored the residues according to the Rasmol color scheme, and the alignment is automatically wrapped to fit the width of the view (shown in figure 2.6).

Now, we are going to modify how this alignment is displayed. For this, we use the settings in the **Side Panel** to the right. All the settings are organized into groups, which can be expanded / collapsed by clicking the name of the group. The first group is **Sequence Layout** which is expanded by default.

First, select **No wrap** in the **Sequence Layout**. This means that each sequence in the alignment

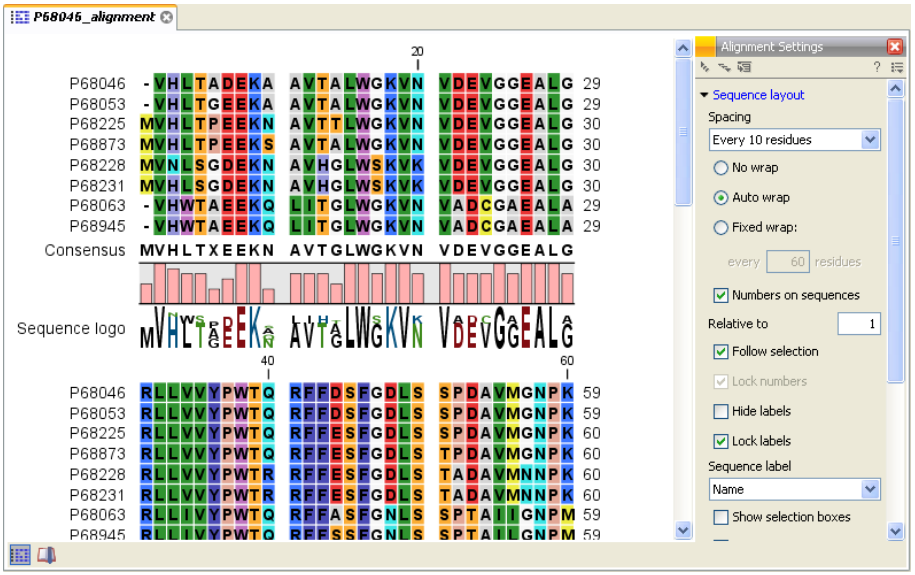

Figure 2.6: *The protein alignment as it looks when you open it with background color according to the Rasmol color scheme and automatically wrapped.*

is kept on the same line. To see more of the alignment, you now have to scroll horizontally.

Next, expand the **Annotation Layout** group and select **Show Annotations**. Set the **Offset** to "More offset" and set the **Label** to "On annotation".

Expand the **Annotation Types** group. Here you will see a list of the types annotation that are carried by the sequences in the alignment (see figure 2.7).

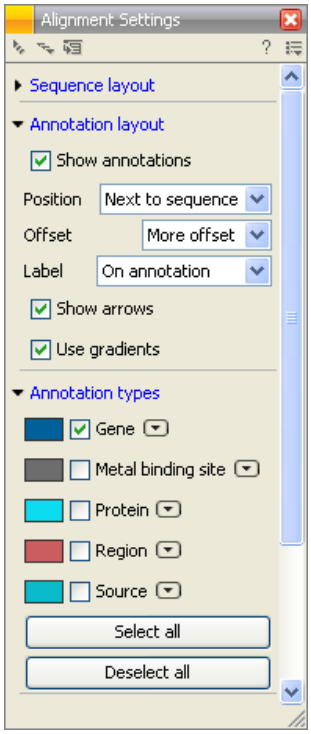

Figure 2.7: *The Annotation Layout and the Annotation Types in the Side Panel.*

Check the "Region" annotation type, and you will see the regions as red annotations on the

sequences.

Next, we will change the way the residues are colored. Click the **Alignment Info** group and under **Conservation**, check "Background color". This will use a gradient as background color for the residues. You can adjust the coloring by dragging the small arrows above the color box.

2.3.1 Saving the settings in the Side Panel

Now the alignment should similar to the one shown in figure 2.8.

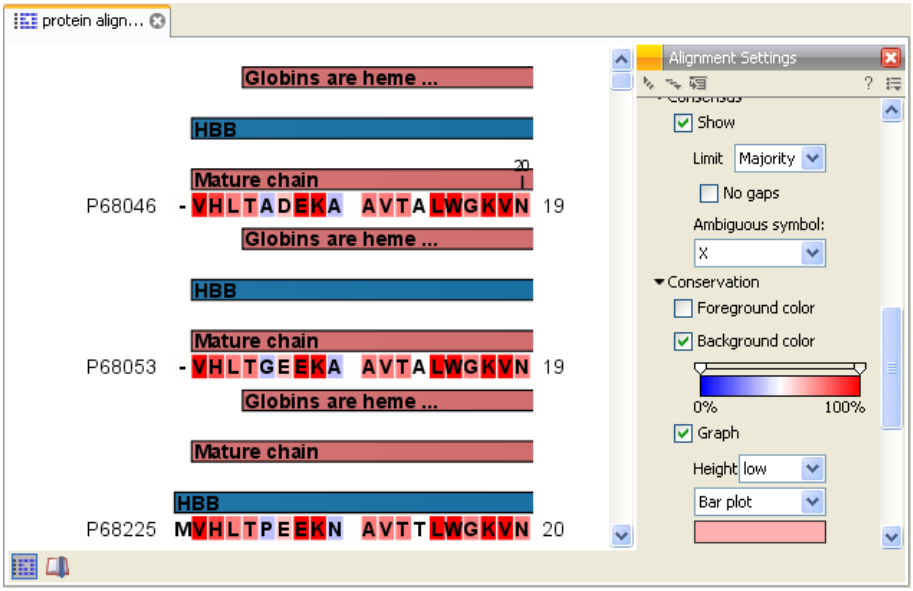

Figure 2.8: *The alignment when all the above settings have been changed.*

At this point, if you just close the view, the changes made to the **Side Panel** will not be saved. This means that you would have to perform the changes again next time you open the alignment. To save the changes to the **Side Panel**, click the **Save/Restore Settings** button ( ) at the top of the **Side Panel** and click **Save Settings** (see figure 2.9).

Figure 2.9: *Saving the settings of the Side Panel.*

This will open the dialog shown in figure 2.10.

In this way you can save the current state of the settings in the **Side Panel** so that you can apply them to alignments later on. If you check **Always apply these settings**, these settings will be applied every time you open a view of the alignment.

Type "My settings" in the dialog and click **Save**.

Figure 2.10: *Dialog for saving the settings of the Side Panel.*

2.3.2 Applying saved settings

When you click the **Save/Restore Settings** button ( ) again and select **Apply Saved Settings**, you will see "My settings" in the menu together with some pre-defined settings that the workbench has created for you (see figure 2.11).

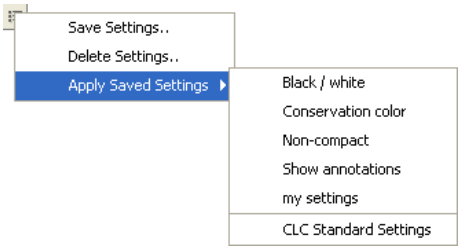

Figure 2.11: *Menu for applying saved settings.*

Whenever you open an alignment, you will be able to apply these settings. Each kind of view has its own list of settings that can be applied.

At the bottom of the list you will see the "CLC Standard Settings" which are the default settings for the view.

2.4 Tutorial: GenBank search and download

The *CLC Combined Workbench* allows you to search the NCBI GenBank database directly from the program, giving you the opportunity to both open, view, analyze and save the search results without using any other applications. To conduct a search in NCBI GenBank from *CLC Combined Workbench* you must be connected to the Internet.

This tutorial shows how to find a complete human hemoglobin DNA sequence in a situation where you do not know the accession number of the sequence.

To start the search:

Search | Search for Sequences at NCBI ( )

This opens the search view. We are searching for a DNA sequence, hence:

Nucleotide

Now we are going to adjust parameters for the search. By clicking **Add search parameters** you activate an additional set of fields where you can enter search criteria. Each search criterion

consists of a drop down menu and a text field. In the drop down menu you choose which part of the NCBI database to search, and in the text field you enter what to search for:

Click Add search parameters until three search criteria are available | choose Organism in the first drop down menu | write 'human' in the adjoining text field | choose All Fields in the second drop down menu | write 'hemoglobin' in the adjoining text field | choose All Fields in the third drop down menu | write 'complete' in the adjoining text field

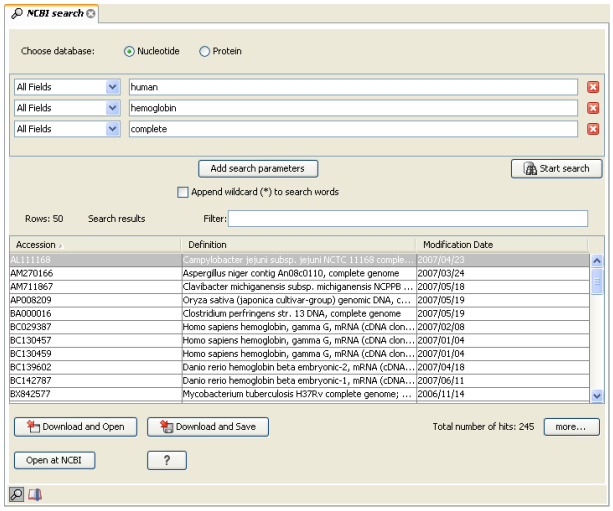

Figure 2.12: *NCBI search view.*

Click **Start search ( )** to commence the search in NCBI.

2.4.1 Searching for matching objects

When the search is complete, the list of hits is shown. If the desired complete human hemoglobin DNA sequence is found, the sequence can be viewed by double-clicking it in the list of hits from the search. If the desired sequence is not shown, you can click the 'More' button below the list to see more hits.

2.4.2 Saving the sequence

The sequences which are found during the search can be displayed by double-clicking in the list of hits. However, this does not save the sequence. You can save one or more sequence by selecting them and:

click Download and Save

or **drag the sequences into the Navigation Area**

2.5 Tutorial: Align protein sequences

It is possible to create multiple alignments of nucleotide and protein sequences. *CLC Combined Workbench* offers several opportunities to view alignments. The alignments can be used for building phylogenetic trees.

The sequences must be saved in the **Navigation Area** in order to be included in an alignment. To save a sequence which is displayed in the **View Area**, click the tab of the sequence and press Ctrl + S (or ⌘ + S on Mac). In this tutorial eight protein sequences from the Example data will be aligned. (See figure 2.13).

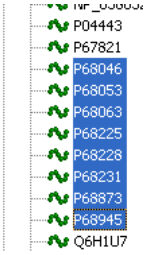

Figure 2.13: *Eight protein sequences in 'Sequences' from the 'Protein' folder of the Example data.*

To align the sequences:

> **select the sequences from the 'Protein' folder under 'Sequences'** | **Toolbox** | **Alignments and Trees (**) | **Create Alignment (**)

2.5.1 The alignment dialog

This opens the dialog shown in fig. 2.14.

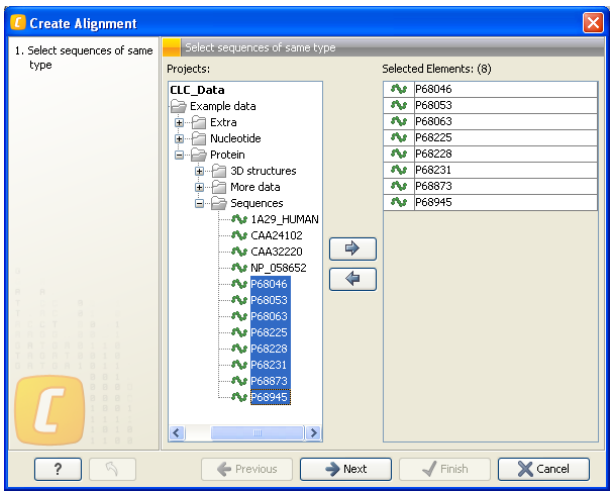

Figure 2.14: *The alignment dialog displaying the 8 chosen protein sequences.*

It is possible to add and remove sequences from **Selected Elements** list. Since we had already selected the eight proteins, just click **Next** to adjust parameters for the alignment.

Clicking **Next** opens the dialog shown in fig. 2.15.

Leave the parameters at their default settings. An explanation of the parameters can be found by clicking the help button (?). Alternatively, a tooltips is displayed by holding the mouse cursor on the parameters.

Click **Finish** to start the alignment process which is shown in the **Toolbox** under the **Processes** tab. When the program is finished calculating it displays the alignment (see fig. 2.16):

Note! The new alignment is not saved automatically.

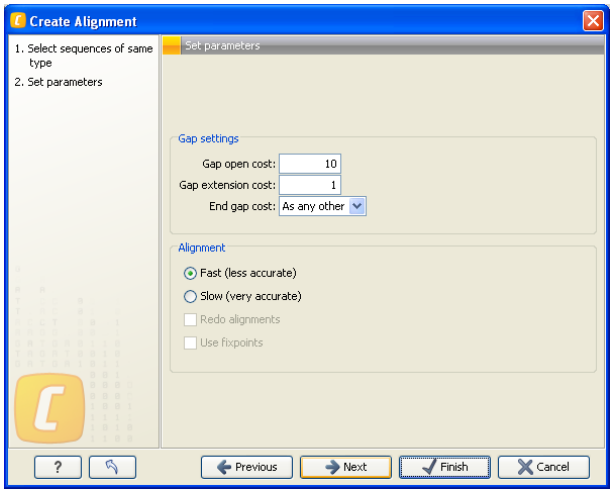

Figure 2.15: *The alignment dialog displaying the available parameters which can be adjusted.*

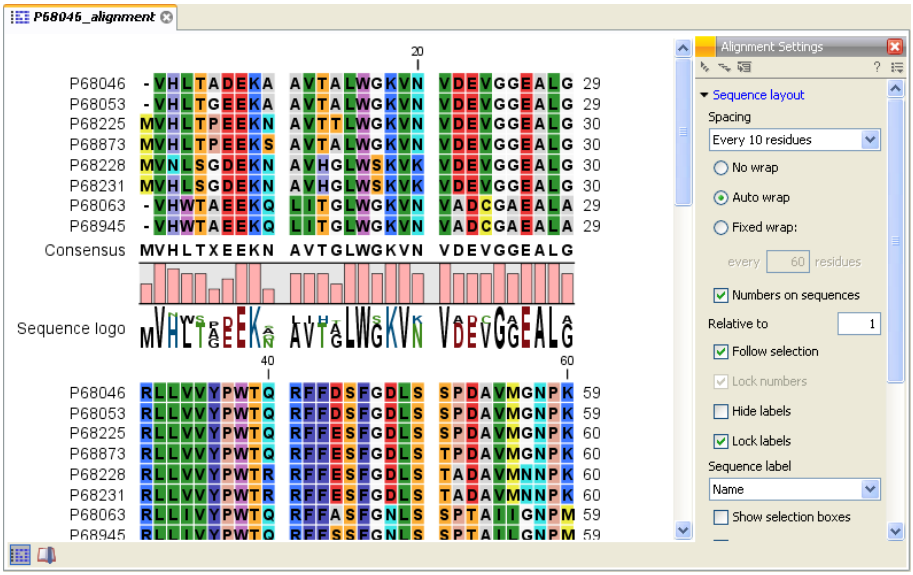

Figure 2.16: *The resulting alignment.*

To save the alignment, drag the tab of the alignment view into the **Navigation Area**.

If you wish to use other alignment algorithms (like e.g. ClustalW), please download the Additional Alignments Module from `http://www.clcbio.com/plugins`.

2.6 Tutorial: Create and modify a phylogenetic tree

You can make a phylogenetic tree from an existing alignment. (See how to create an alignment in the tutorial: "Align protein sequences").

We use the 'protein alignment' located in 'More data' in the 'Protein' folder. To create a phylogonetic tree:

> **click the 'protein alignment' in the Navigation Area | Toolbox | Alignments and Trees ( ) | Create Tree ( ):**

A dialog opens where you can confirm your selection of the alignment. Click **Next** to move to

the next step in the dialog where you can choose between the neighbor joining and the UPGMA algorithms for making trees. You also have the option of including a bootstrap analysis of the result. Leave the parameters at their default, and click **Finish** to start the calculation, which can be seen in the **Toolbox** under the **Processes** tab. After a short while a tree appears in the **View Area** (figure 2.17).

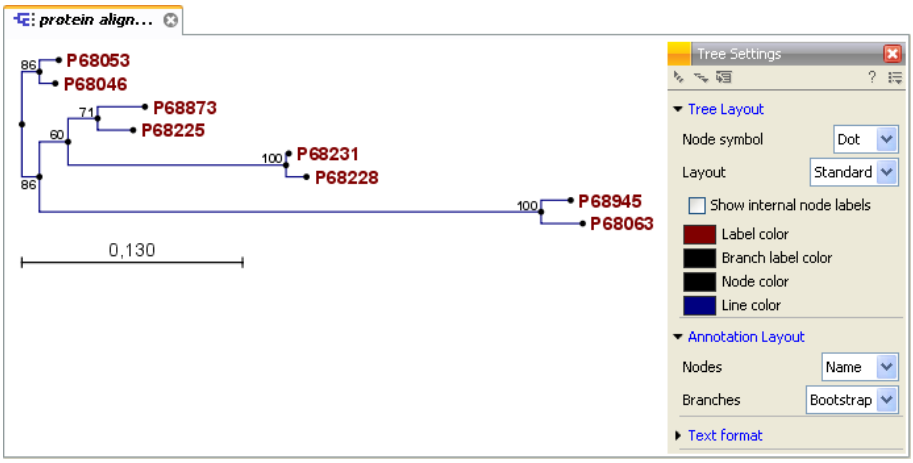

Figure 2.17: *After choosing which algorithm should be used, the tree appears in the View Area. The Side panel in the right side of the view allows you to adjust the way the tree is displayed.*

2.6.1 Tree layout

Using the **Side Panel** (in the right side of the view), you can change the way the tree is displayed.

Click **Tree Layout** and open the **Layout** drop down menu. Here you can choose between standard and topology layout. The topology layout can help to give an overview of the tree if some of the branches are very short.

When the sequences include the appropriate annotation, it is possible to choose between the accession number and the species names at the leaves of the tree. Sequences downloaded from GenBank, for example, have this information. The **Labels** preferences allows these different node annotations as well as different annotation on the branches.

The branch annotation includes the bootstrap value, if this was selected when the tree was calculated. It is also possible to annotate the branches with their lengths.

2.7 Tutorial: Find restriction sites

This tutorial will show you how to find restriction sites and annotate them on a sequence.

There are two ways of finding and showing restriction sites. In many cases, the dynamic restriction sites found in the **Side Panel** of sequence views will be useful, since it is a quick and easy way of showing restriction sites. In the **Toolbox** you will find the other way of doing restriction site analyses. This way provides more control of the analysis and gives you more output options, e.g. a table of restriction sites and a list of restriction enzymes that can be saved for later use. In this tutorial, the first section describes how to use the Side Panel to show restriction sites, whereas the second section describes the restriction map analysis performed from the **Toolbox**.

2.7.1 The Side Panel way of finding restriction sites

When you open a sequence, there is a **Restriction sites** setting in the **Side Panel**. By default, 20 of the most popular restriction enzymes are shown (see figure 2.18).

Figure 2.18: *Showing restriction sites of ten restriction enzymes.*

The restriction sites are shown on the sequence with an indication of cut site and recognition sequence. In the list of enzymes in the **Side Panel**, the number of cut sites is shown in parentheses for each enzyme (e.g. EcoRV cuts three times). If you wish to see the recognition sequence of the enzyme, place your mouse cursor on the enzyme in the list for a short moment, and a tool tip will appear.

You can add or remove enzymes from the list by clicking the **Edit enzymes** button. However, there is a very smart way of adding enzymes:

> **make a selection on the sequence** | **right-click the selection** | **Show Enzymes only Cutting Selection (** **)**

This will show a dialog where you can specify criteria for the enzymes to be added to the list in the **Side Panel**. When you click **OK**, the selection will be scanned for restriction sites according to the settings in the dialog, and the relevant enzymes will be added to the list in the **Side Panel**.

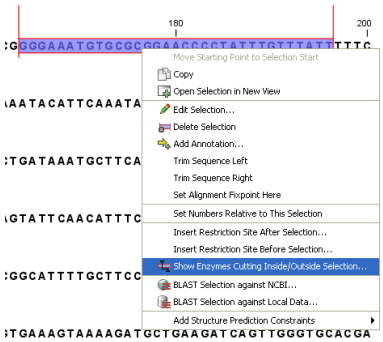

Figure 2.19: *This will add enzymes that cut this selection to the Side Panel.*

2.7.2 The Toolbox way of finding restriction sites

Suppose you are working with sequence PERH3BC from the example data, and you wish to know which restriction enzymes will cut this sequence exactly once and create a 3' overhang. Do the following:

> **select the PERH3BC sequence from the 'Nucleotide' folder under 'Sequences' | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Cloning and Restriction Sites ( ) | Restriction Site Analysis ( )**

Click **Next** to set parameters for the restriction map analysis.

In the next step you write 3' into the filter to the left. Then you click in the list of enzymes to the left and press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac). Then click the **Add** button ( ). The result should be like in figure 2.20.

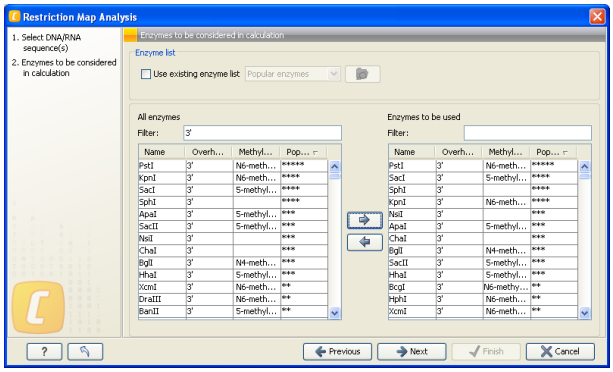

Figure 2.20: *Selecting enzymes.*

Click **Next**. In this step you specify that you want to show enzymes that cut the sequence only once. This means that you should de-select the **Two restriction sites** checkbox.

Click **Next** and select that you want to **Add restriction sites as annotations on sequence** and **Create restriction map**. (See figure 2.21).

Click **Finish** to start the restriction map analysis.

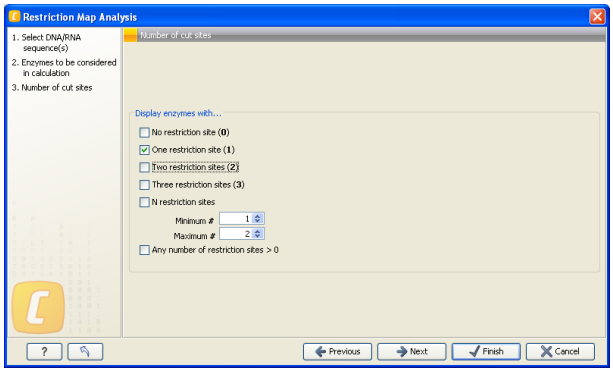

Figure 2.21: *Selecting output for restriction map analysis.*

View restriction site

The restriction sites are shown in two views: one view is in a tabular format and the other view displays the sites as annotations on the sequence. To see both views at once:

View in the menu bar | Split Horizontally ( )

The result is shown in figure 2.22. The restriction map at the bottom can also be shown as a

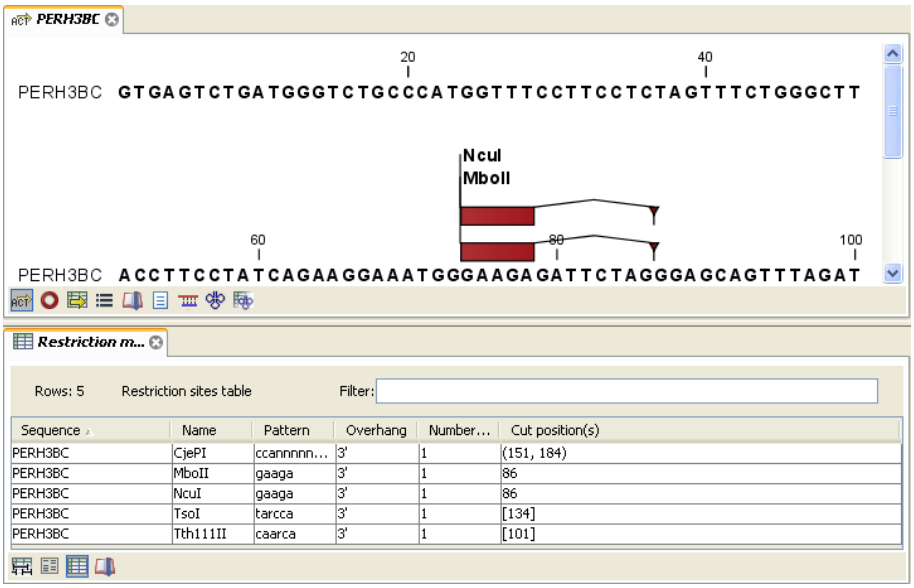

Figure 2.22: *The result of the restriction map analysis is displayed in a table at the bottom and as annotations on the sequence in the view at the top.*

table of fragments produced by cutting the sequence with the enzymes:

Click the Fragments button ( ) at the bottom of the view

In a similar way the fragments can be shown on a virtual gel:

Click the Gel button ( ) at the bottom of the view

2.8 Tutorial: BLAST search

This tutorial shows you how to perform a BLAST search using *CLC Combined Workbench*.

Suppose you are working with the NP_058652 protein which constitutes the beta part of the hemoglobin molecule that is expressed in the adult house mouse, *Mus musculus*. To obtain more information about this molecule you wish to query the Swiss-Prot database to find homologous proteins in humans *Homo sapiens*, using the **Basic Local Alignment Search Tool** (BLAST) algorithm.

Please note that your computer must be connected to the Internet to complete this tutorial.

Start out by:

> **select protein NP_058652 from the 'Protein' folder under 'Sequences'** | **Toolbox** | **BLAST Search (**) | **NCBI BLAST (**)

In **Step 1** you can choose which sequence to use as query sequence. Since you have already chosen the sequence it is displayed in the **Selected Elements** list.

Click **Next**.

In **Step 2** (figure 2.23), choose the default BLAST program: **BLASTp: Protein sequence against Protein database** and select the **Swiss-Prot** database in the **Database** drop down menu.

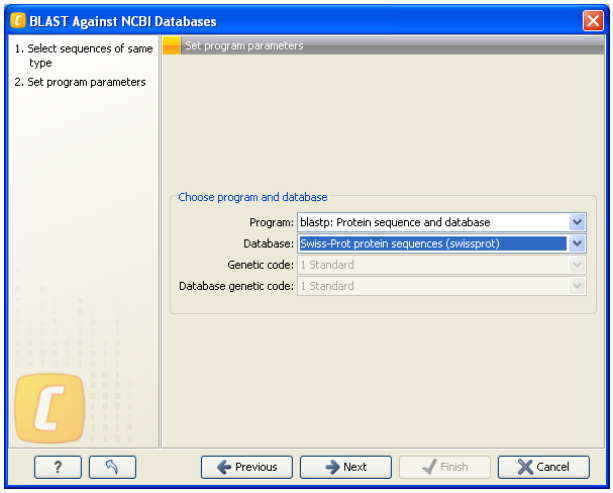

Figure 2.23: *Choosing BLAST program and database.*

Click **Next**.

In the **Limit by Entrez query** in **Step 3**, choose **Homo sapiens[ORGN]** from the drop down menu to arrive at the search configuration seen in figure 2.24. Including this term limits the query to proteins of human origin.

Click **Next** to set how the output of the BLAST search should be displayed. Leave these options at their default.

Click **Finish** to accept the parameter settings and begin the BLAST search.

The computer now contacts NCBI and places your query in the BLAST search queue. After a short while the result is received and opened in a new view.

The output is shown in figure 2.25 and consists of a list of potential homologs that are sorted by their BLAST match-score and shown in descending order below the query sequence.

Try placing your mouse cursor over a potential homologous sequence. You will see that a context

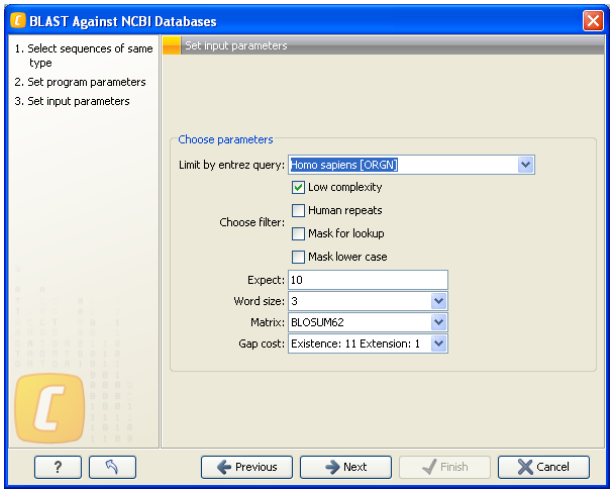

Figure 2.24: *The BLAST search is limited to homo sapiens[ORGN]. The remaining parameters are left as default.*

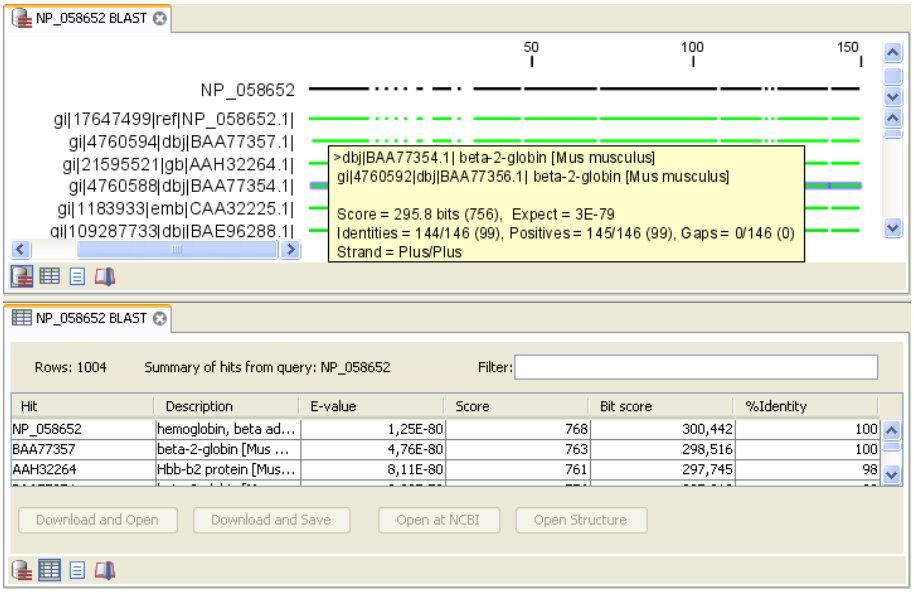

Figure 2.25: *Output of a BLAST search. By holding the mouse pointer over the lines you can get information about the sequence.*

box appears containing information about the sequence and the match-scores obtained from the BLAST algorithm.

The lines in the BLAST view are the actual sequences which are downloaded. This means that you can zoom in and see the actual alignment:

> **Zoom in in the Tool Bar ( ) | Click in the BLAST view a number of times until you see the residues**

Now we will focus our attention on sequence P02042 - the BLAST hit that is second from the top of the list. To open sequence P02042:

> **right-click the line representing sequence P02042 | Download Full Hit Sequence from NCBI**

This opens the sequence. However, the sequence is not saved yet. Drag and drop the sequence

into the **Navigation Area** to save it. This homologous sequence is now stored in the *CLC Combined Workbench* and you can use it to gain information about the query sequence by using the various tools of the workbench, e.g. by studying its textual information, by studying its annotation or by aligning it to the query sequence.

2.9 Tutorial: Tips for specialized BLAST searches

BLAST is a great and invaluable tool in bioinformatics. BLAST has become a very central tool when it comes to identification of homologues and similar sequences, and at the same time BLAST has evolved to become a highly complex tool which can be used for many different purposes.

In this tutorial you will learn how to:

- Use BLAST to find the gene of a protein on a genomic sequence.
- Find primer binding sites on genomic sequences
- Identify remote protein homologues.

This tutorial requires some experience using the Workbench, so if you get stuck at some point, we recommend going through the more basic tutorials first.

2.9.1 Locate a protein sequence on the chromosome

If you have a protein sequence but want to see the actual location on the chromosome this is easy to do using BLAST.

In this example we wish to map the protein sequence of the Human beta-globin protein to a chromosome. We know in advance that the beta-globin is located somewhere on chromosome 11.

Data used in this example can be downloaded from GenBank:

Search | **Search for Sequences at NCBI ()**

Human chromosome 11 (NC_000011) consists of 134452384 nucleotides and the beta-globin (AAA16334) protein has 147 amino acids.

BLAST configuration

Next, conduct a local BLAST search:

Toolbox | **BLAST Search ( )** | **Local BLAST ( )**

Select the protein sequence as query sequence and click **Next**. Since you wish to BLAST a protein sequence against a nucleotide sequence, use **tblastn** which will automatically translate the nucleotide sequence selected as database.

As **Target** select *NC_000011* that you downloaded. If you are used to BLAST, you will know that you usually have to create a BLAST database before BLASTing, but the Workbench does this "on the fly" when you just select one or more sequences.

Click **Next**, leave the parameters at their default, click **Next** again, and then **Finish**.

Inspect BLAST result

When the BLAST result appears make a split view so that both the table and graphical view is visible (see figure 2.26). This is done by pressing Ctrl (⌘ on Mac) while clicking the table view ( ) at the bottom of the view.

In the table start out by showing two additional columns; "% Positive" and "Query start". These should simply be checked in the Side Panel.

Now, sort the BLAST table view by clicking the column header "% Positive". Then, press and hold the Ctrl button (⌘ on Mac) and click the header "Query start". Now you have sorted the table first on % Positive hits and then the start position of the query sequence. Now you see that you actually have three regions with a 100% positive hit but at different locations on the chromosome sequence (see figure 2.26).

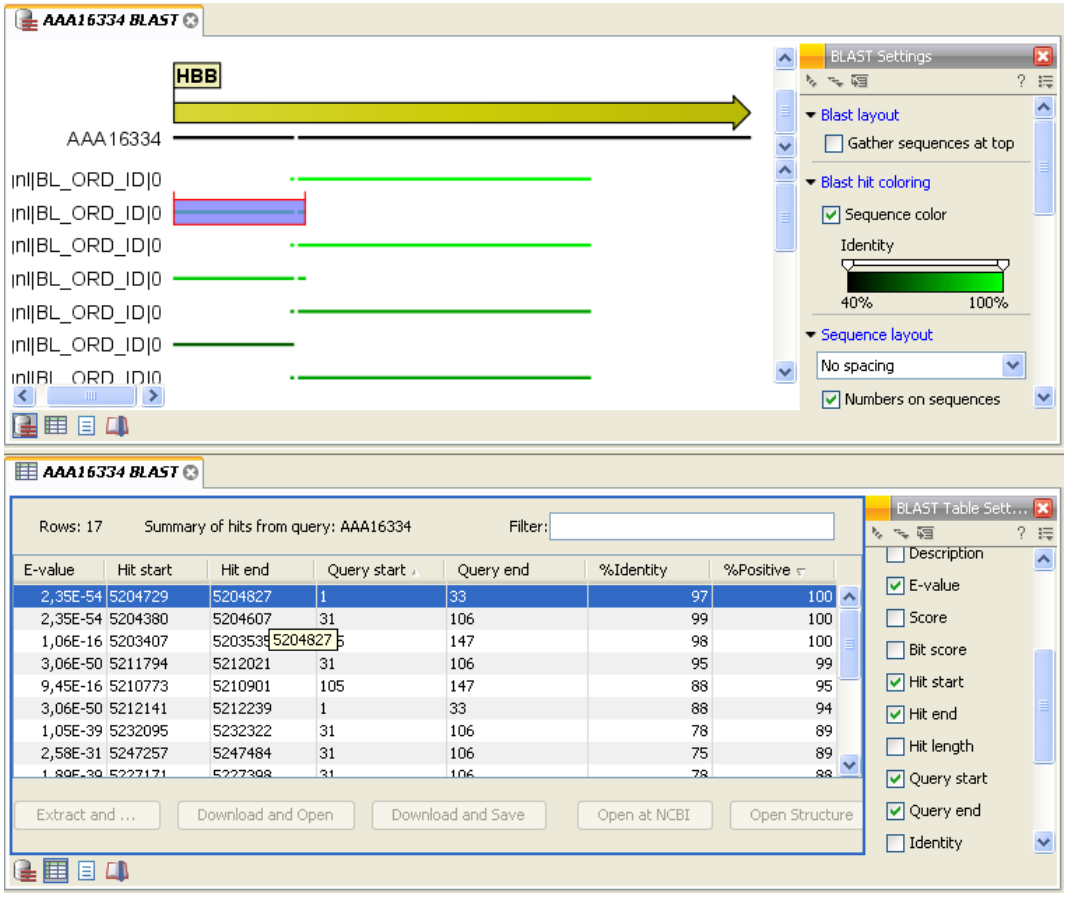

Figure 2.26: *Placement of translated nucleotide sequence hits on the Human beta-globin.*

Why did we find, on the protein level, three identical regions between our query protein sequence and nucleotide database?

The beta-globin gene is known to have three exons and this is exactly what we find in the BLAST search. Each translated exon will hit the corresponding sequence on the chromosome.

In the table you can also see the "Hit start" and "Hit end" positions. These are the corresponding positions on the chromosome sequence. Notice that the hit start position has a lover number than the hit end position. This is because the gene is located on the complementary strand. If you place the mouse cursor on the sequence hits in the graphical view, you can see the reading

frame which is -1, -2 and -3 for the three hits, respectively.

Verify the result

Open NC_000011 in a view, and go to the Hit start position (5,204,729) and zoom to see the blue gene annotation. You can now see the exon structure of the Human beta-globin gene showing the three exons on the reverse strand (see figure 2.27).

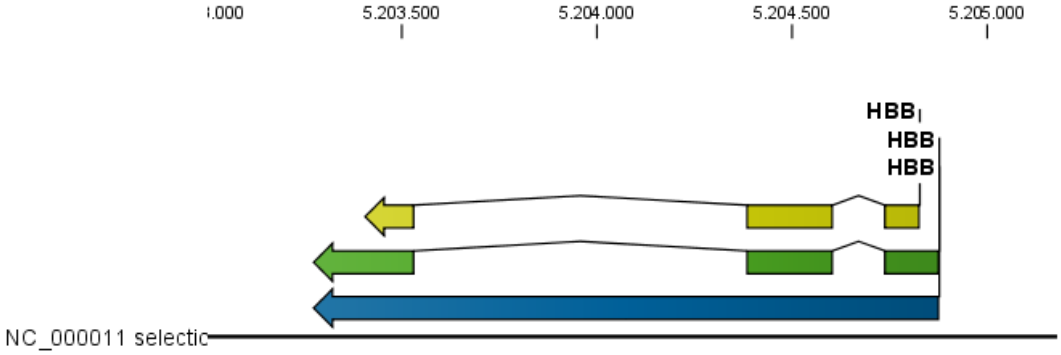

Figure 2.27: *Human beta-globin exon view.*

If you wish to verify the result, make a selection covering the gene region and open it in a new view:

right-click | **Open Selection in New View (** **)** | **Save (** **)**

Save the sequence, and perform a new BLAST search:

- Use the new sequence as query.
- Use BLASTx
- Use the protein sequence, AAA16334, as database

Using the genomic sequence as query, the mapping of the protein sequence to the exons is visually very clear as shown in figure 2.28.

In theory you could use the chromosome sequence as query, but the performance would be very bad: it would take a long time, and the computer might run out of memory.

In this example, you have used well-annotated sequences where you could have searched for the name of the gene instead of using BLAST. However, there are other situations where you either do not know the name of the gene, or the genomic sequence is poorly annotated. In these cases, the approach described in this tutorial can be very productive.

2.9.2 BLAST for primer binding sites

You can adjust the BLAST parameters so it becomes possible to match short primer sequences against a larger sequence. Then it is easy to examine whether already existing lab primers can be reused for other purposes, or if the primers you designed are specific.

Purpose	Program	Word size	Low complexity filter	Expect value
Standard BLAST	blastn	11	On	10
Primer search	blastn	7	Off	1000

Figure 2.28: *Verification of the result: at the top a view of the whole BLAST result. At the bottom the same view is zoomed in on exon 3 to show the amino acids.*

These settings are shown in figure 2.29.

2.9.3 Finding remote protein homologues

If you look for short identical peptide sequences in a database, the standard BLAST parameters will have to be reconfigured. Using the parameters described below, you are likely to be able to identify whether antigenic determinants will cross react to other proteins.

Purpose	Program	Word size	Low complexity filter	Expect value	Scoring matrix
Standard BLAST	blastp	3	On	10	BLSUM62
Remote homologues	blastp	2	Off	20000	PAM30

These settings are shown in figure 2.30.

2.9.4 Further reading

A valuable source of information about BLAST can be found at `http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/producttable.shtml`.

Remember that BLAST is a heuristic method thus you cannot trusted BLAST to be accurate. For very accurate results you should use Smith-Waterman. You can read "Bioinformatics explained:

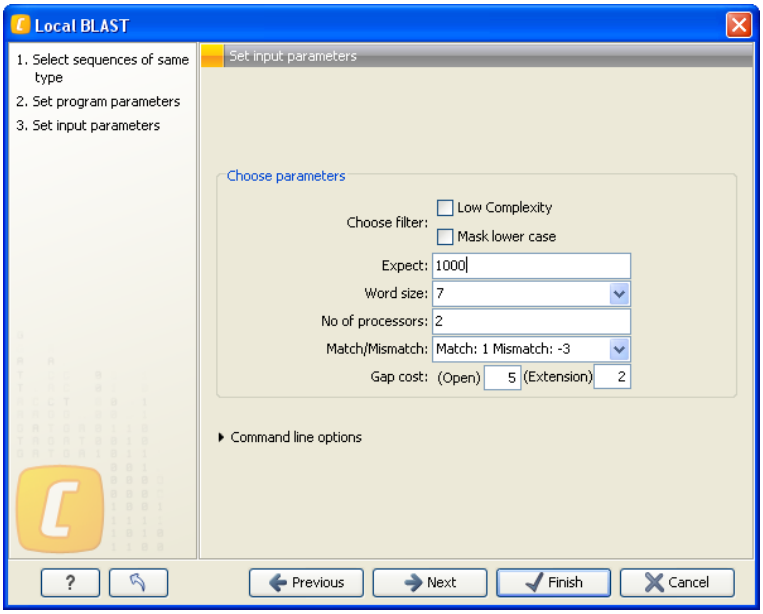

Figure 2.29: *Settings for searching for primer binding sites.*

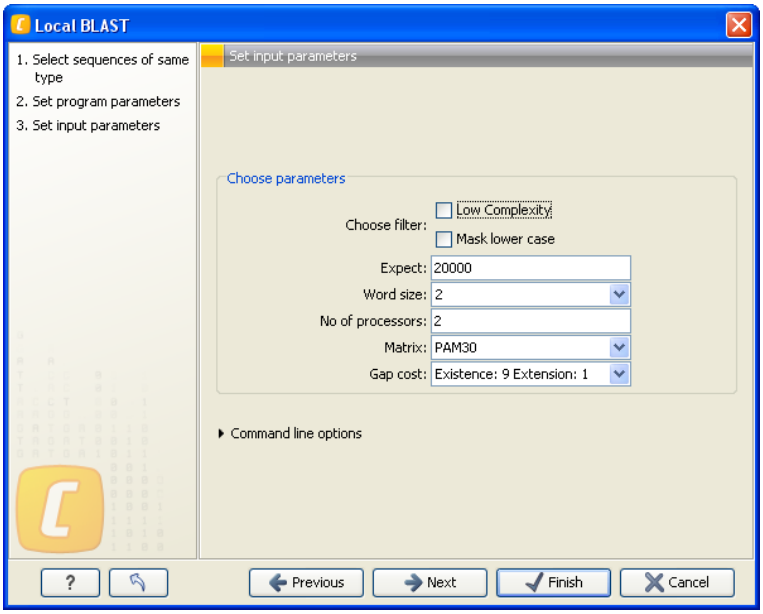

Figure 2.30: *Settings for searching for remote homologues.*

BLAST versus Smith-Waterman" here: `http://www.clcbio.com/BE`.

2.10 Tutorial: Proteolytic cleavage detection

This tutorial shows you how to find cut sites and see an overview of fragments when cleaving proteins with proteolytic cleavage enzymes.

Suppose you are working with protein CAA32220 from the example data, and you wish to see where the enzyme *trypsin* will cleave the protein. Furthermore, you want to see details for the resulting fragments which are between 10 and 15 amino acids long.

click protein CAA32220 from the 'Protein' folder under 'Sequences' | Toolbox | Protein Analyses ( ) | Proteolytic Cleavage

This opens **Step 1** of the Proteolytic Cleavage dialog. In this step you can choose which sequences to include in the analysis. Since you have already chosen protein CAA32220, click **Next**.

In this step you should select **Trypsin**. This is illustrated in figure 2.31.

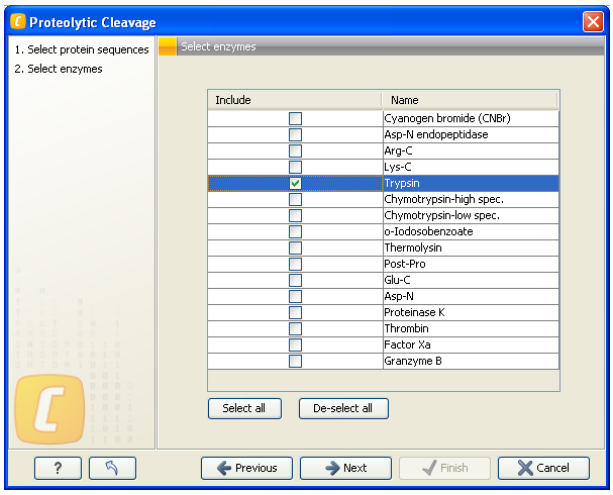

Figure 2.31: *Selecting trypsin as the cleaving enzyme.*

Click **Next** to go to **Step 3** of the dialog.

In **Step 3** you can adjust the parameters for which fragments of the cleavage you want to include in the table output of the analysis.

Type '10' in the Exclude fragments shorter than | Check the box: Exclude fragments longer than | enter '15' in the corresponding text field

These parameter adjustments are shown in figure 2.32:

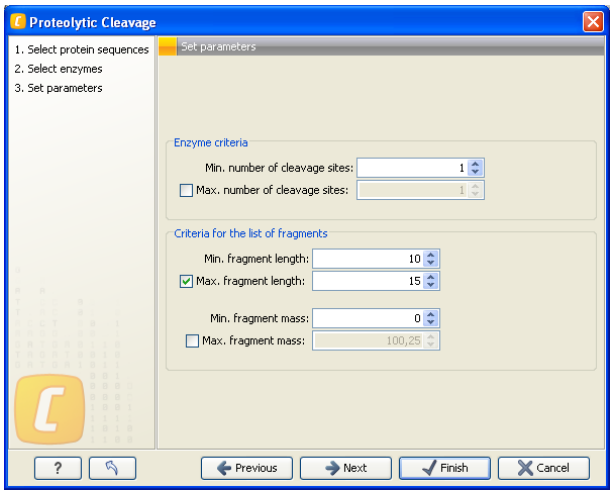

Figure 2.32: *Adjusting the output from the cleavage to include fragments which are between 10 and 15 amino acids long.*

Click **Finish** to make the analysis. The result of the analysis can be seen in figure 2.33

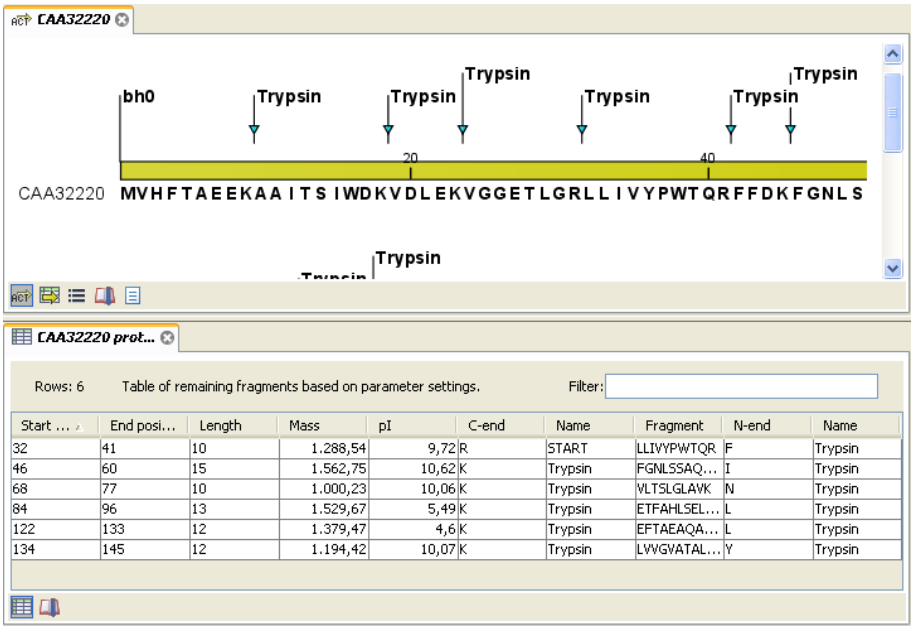

Figure 2.33: *The output of the proteolytic cleavage shows the cleavage sites as annontations in the protein sequence. The accompanying table lists all the fragments which are between 10 and 15 amino acids long.*

Note! The output of proteolytic cleavage is two related views. The sequence view displays annotations where the sequence is cleaved. The table view shows information about the fragments satisfying the parameters set in the dialog. Subsequently, if you have restricted the fragment parameters, you might have more annotations on the sequence than fragments in the table.

If you conduct another proteolytic cleavage on the same sequence, the output consists of: (possibly) new annotations on the original sequence and an additional table view, listing all fragments.

2.11 Tutorial: Primer design

In this tutorial, you will see how to use *CLC Combined Workbench* for finding primers for PCR amplification of a specific region.

We use the PERH3BC sequence from the 'Nucleotide' folder under 'Sequences' of the Example data. First, open the sequence in the Primer Designer:

Select the PERH3BC sequence | Show ( ) | Primer Designer ( )

Now the sequence is opened and we are ready to begin designing primers.

2.11.1 Specifying a region for the forward primer

In this example we know where we want the primers to be located. If you have annotated your sequence, these annotations are also shown in the primer designer to help you guide where the primers should be located.

In this tutorial, we want the forward primer to be in a region between positions 20 and 45. Select

this region, right-click and choose "Forward primer region here" (➡) (see figure 2.34).

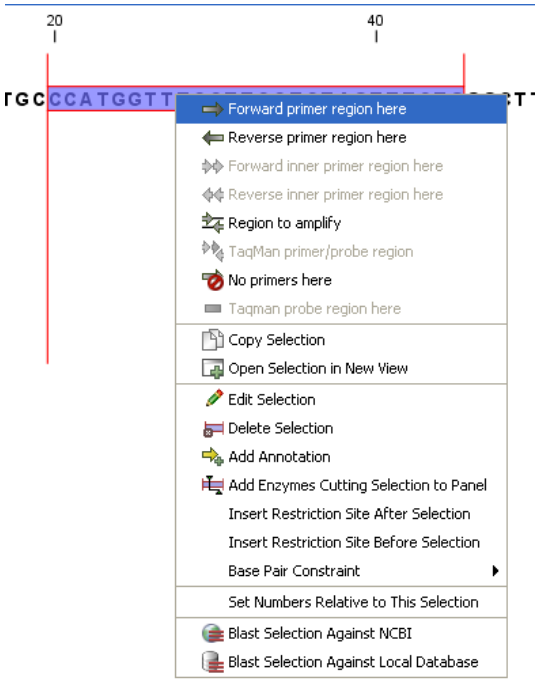

Figure 2.34: *Right-clicking a selection and choosing "Forward primer region here".*

This will add an annotation to this region, and five rows of red and green dots are seen below as shown in figure 2.35:

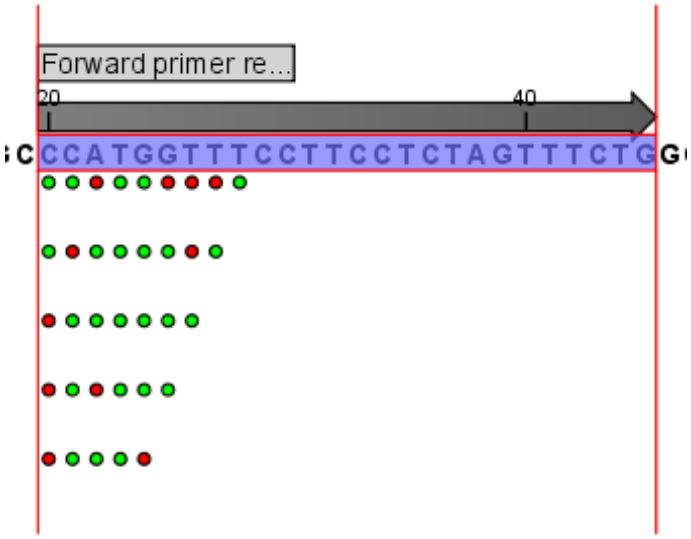

Figure 2.35: *Five lines of dots representing primer suggestions. There is a line for each length.*

2.11.2 Examining the primer suggestions

Each line consists of a number of dots, each representing the *starting point* of a possible primer. E.g. the first dot on the first line (primers of length 18) represents a primer starting at the dot's position and with a length of 18 nucleotides (shown as the white area in figure 2.36):

Figure 2.36: *The first dot on line one represents the starting point of a primer that will anneal to the highlighted region.*

Position the mouse cursor upon a dot and you will see an information box providing data about this primer. Clicking the dot will select the region where the primer will anneal. (See figure 2.37):

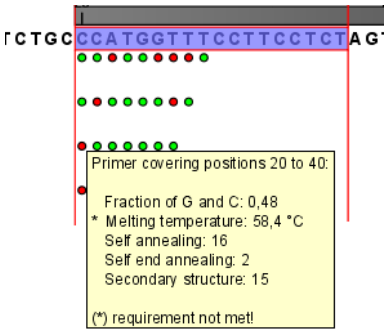

Figure 2.37: *Clicking the dot will select the corresponding region, and placing the cursor upon the dot will reveal an information box.*

Note that some of the dots are colored red. This indicates that the primer represented by this dot does not meet the requirements set in the **Primer parameters** (see figure 2.38):

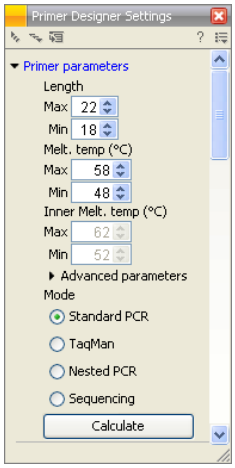

Figure 2.38: *The Primer parameters.*

Note that the maximum melting temperature is per default set to 58, and this is the reason why the primer in figure 2.37 with an melting temperature of 58,4 does not meet the requirements and is colored red. If you raise the maximum melting temperature to 59, the primer will meet the requirements and the dot becomes green.

In figure 2.37 there is an asterisk (*) before the melting temperature. This indicates that this primer does not meet the requirements regarding melting temperature. In this way, you can easily see why a specific primer (represented by a dot) fails to meet the requirements.

By adjusting the **Primer parameters** you can define primers which match your specific needs. Since the dots are constantly updated, you can immediately see how a change in the primer parameters affects the number of red and green dots.

2.11.3 Calculating a primer pair

Until now, we have been looking at the forward primer. To mark a region for the reverse primer, make a selection covering positions 125 to 157 and:

Right-click the selection | Reverse primer region here (⇦)

The two regions should now be located as shown in figure 2.39:

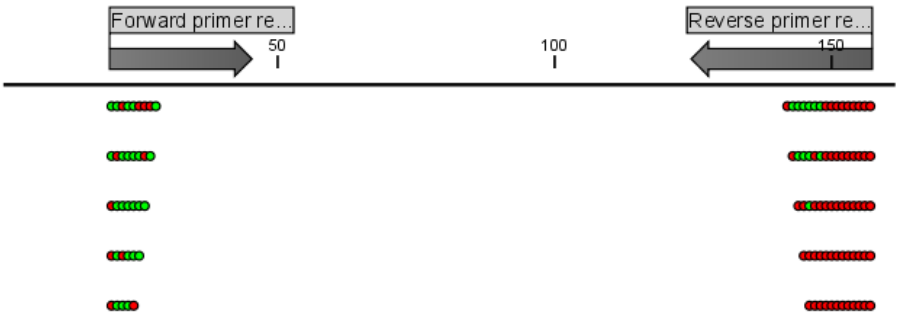

Figure 2.39: *A forward and a reverse primer region enclosing the conflicts.*

Now, you can let *CLC Combined Workbench* calculate all the possible primer pairs based on the **Primer parameters** that you have defined:

Click the Calculate button | Modify parameters regarding the combination of the primers (for now, just leave them unchanged)| Calculate

This will open a table showing the possible combinations of primers. To the right, you can specify the information you want to display, e.g. showing secondary structure (see figure 2.40):

Clicking a primer pair in the table will make a corresponding selection on the sequence in the view above. At this point, you can either settle on a specific primer pair or save the table for later. If you want to use e.g. the first primer pair for your experiment, right-click this primer pair in the table and save the primers.

You can also mark the position of the primers on the sequence by selecting **Mark primer annotation on sequence** in the right-click menu (see figure 2.41):

You have now reached the end of this tutorial which has shown some of the many options of the primer design functionalities of *CLC Combined Workbench*. You can read much more in the program's **Help** function (?) or in the users manual on http://www.clcbio.com/download.

2.12 Tutorial: Assembly

In this tutorial, you will see how to assemble data from automated sequencers into a contig and how to find and inspect any inconsistencies that may exist between different reads.

First, select the five trace files (the reads) in the "Assembly" folder in the "Nucleotide" folder of

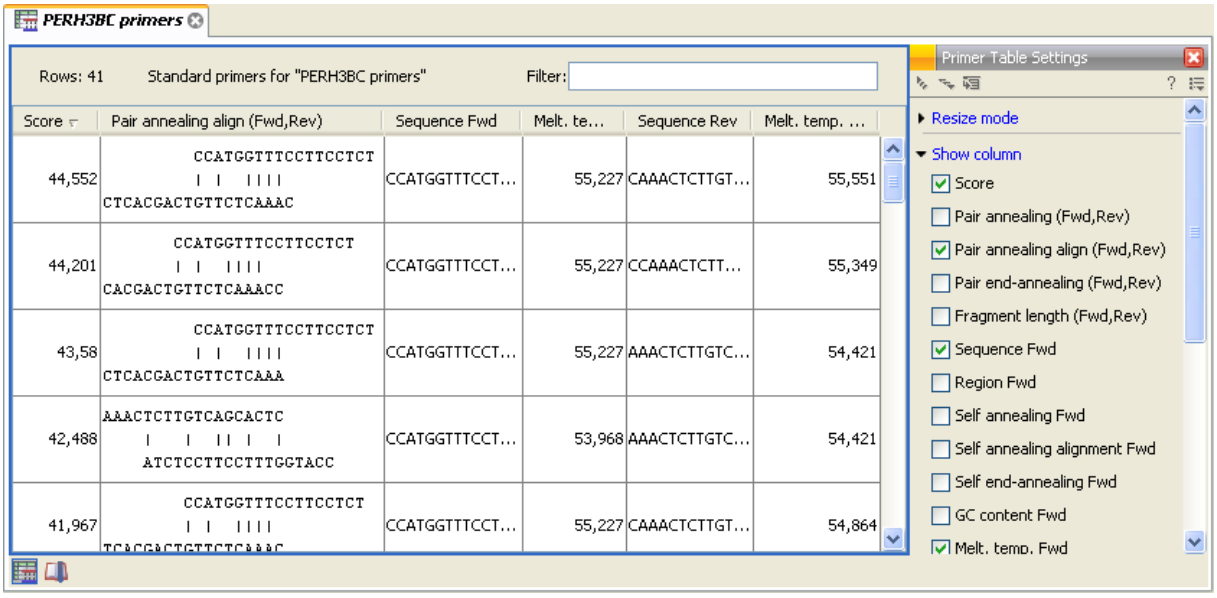

Figure 2.40: *A list of primers. To the right are the Side Panel showing the available choices of information to display.*

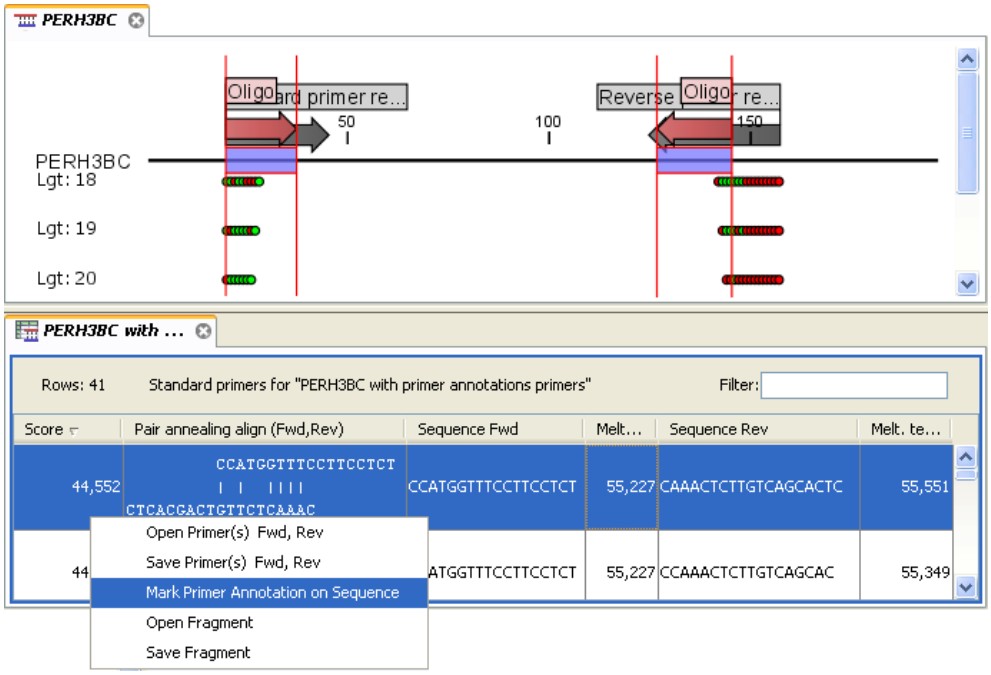

Figure 2.41: *The options available in the right-click menu. Here, "Mark primer annotation on sequence" has been chosen, resulting in two annotations on the sequence above (labeled "Oligo").*

the **Example data**. To assemble the files:

> **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Sequencing Data Analyses** ( ) | **Assemble Sequences** ( )

Click **Next** to go to the second step of the assembly where you choose to trim the sequences. Click **Next**, and you will be able to specify how this trimming should be performed (see figure 2.42).

It is possible to trim based on the quality of the chromatogram traces and you can also trim

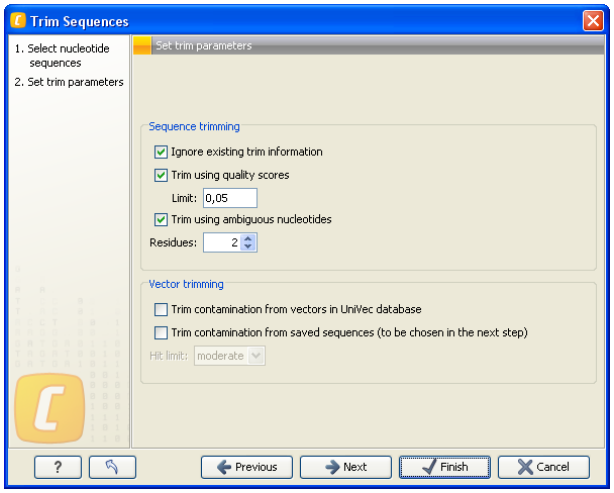

Figure 2.42: *Specifying how sequences should be trimmed.*

for vector contamination. If you place the mouse cursor on the parameters, you will see a brief explanation.

For now, we leave these settings at their default. Click **Finish**.

2.12.1 Getting an overview of the contig

The result of the assembly is a **Contig** which is an alignment of the five reads. Click **Fit width** ( ) to see an overview of the contig. To help you determine the coverage, display a coverage graph (see figure 2.43):

Alignment info in Side Panel | Coverage | Graph

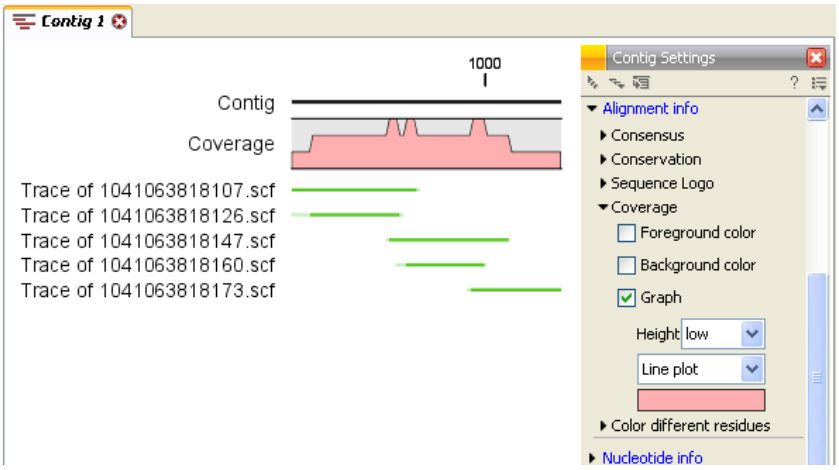

Figure 2.43: *An overview of the contig with the coverage graph.*

This overview can be an aid in determining whether coverage is satisfactory, and if not, which regions a new sequencing effort should focus on. Next, we go into the details of the contig.

2.12.2 Finding and editing inconsistencies

Click **Zoom to 100%** ( ) to zoom in on the residues at the beginning of the contig. Click the **Find Inconsistency** button at the top of the **Side Panel** or press the **Space** key to find the first position where there is disagreement between the reads (see figure 2.44).

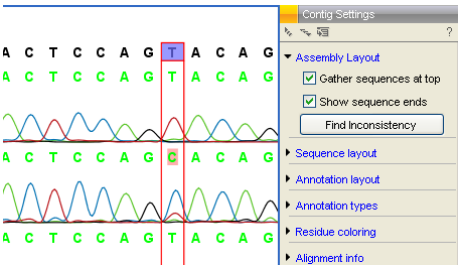

Figure 2.44: *Using the Find Inconsistency button highlights inconsistencies.*

In this example, the first and the third reads have a "T", whereas the second line has a "C" (marked with a light-pink background color). The gray color of the residues in the fourth line indicates that this region has been trimmed (based on the criteria in figure 2.42) and that this information is not included in the creation of the contig. Since the majority of the reads show a "T" in this position, we settle on this in the consensus. In order to show that there has been a disagreement in this position, type a lower-case "t" (see figure 2.45).

Figure 2.45: *Just press the key to replace the residue.*

Clicking the **Find Inconsistency** button again will find the next inconsistency.

2.12.3 Inspecting the traces

Here it is read1 which is different from read3 and read4. There are two peaks - black and green. In order to see the details, we zoom in on this position:

Zoom in in the Tool Bar ( ) | Click the selected base | Click again three times

Now you have zoomed in on the trace (see figure 2.46).

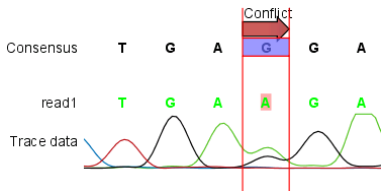

Figure 2.46: *Now you can see all the details of the traces.*

Since the other reads have a G, and because there is also a black peak below the green peak, we conclude that it should have been a G. To change the A to G:

Select the A in read1 | Press "g" on your keyboard

2.12.4 Getting an overview of the inconsistencies

Browsing the inconsistencies by clicking the **Find Inconsistencies** button is useful in many cases, but you might also want to get an overview of all the inconsistencies in the entire contig. This is easily achieved by showing the contig in a table view:

Press and hold the Ctrl-button (⌘ on Mac) | Click Show Table ( ) at the bottom of the view

This will open a table showing the inconsistencies. You can right-click the **Comment** field and enter you own comment as shown in figure 2.47.

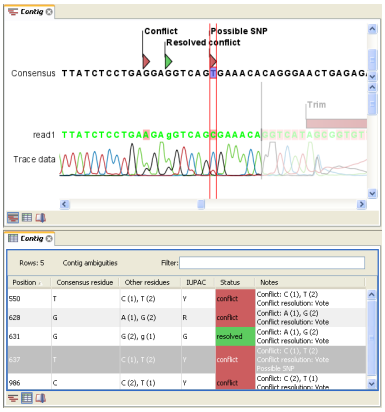

Figure 2.47: *he graphical view of a contig is displayed at the top. At the bottom the conflicts are shown in a table. At the conflict at position 637, the user has entered a comment in the table. This comment is now also reflected on the tooltip of the conflict annotation in the graphical view above.*

When you edit a comment, this is also reflected in the conflict annotation on the consensus sequence. This means that when you use this sequence later on, you will easily be able to see the comments you have entered. The comment could be e.g. your interpretation of the conflict.

2.12.5 Documenting your changes

Whenever you make a change like replacing a "T" for a "t", it will be noted in the contig's history. To open the history:

Right-click the tab of the contig | Show | History ( )

In the history, you can see the details of each change (see figure 2.48).

2.12.6 Using the result for further analyses

When you have finished editing the contig, it can be saved, and you can also extract and save the consensus sequence:

Right-click the name "Consensus" | Open Copy of Sequence in New View | Save ( )

This will make it possible to use this sequence for further analyses in the *CLC Combined Workbench*. All the conflict annotations are preserved, and in the sequence's history, you will find a reference to the original contig. As long as you also save the contig, you will always be able to go back to it by clicking the reference in the consensus sequence's history (see figure

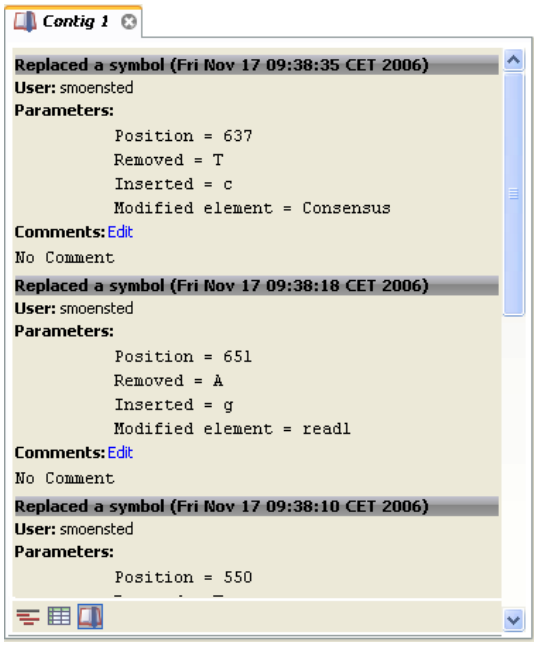

Figure 2.48: *The history of the contig showing that a "A" has been substituted with a "g" in "read1" at position 651.*

2.49).

Figure 2.49: *The history of the consensus sequence which has been extracted from the contig. Clicking the blue text will find the saved contig in the Navigation Area.*

2.13 Tutorial: In silico cloning

In this tutorial, you will see how to insert a sequence fragment into a cloning vector and create a circular map of the vector. The sequence is a PCR fragment which has been created using primers with restriction sites at the ends.

The sequences are located in the Example data in the "Nucleotide" folder under "Cloning":

- PCR fragment with EcoRV restriction sites
- PCR fragment with SphI restriction sites (used in this tutorial)
- The commonly known *pBR322* cloning vector (used in this tutorial)

We choose to insert the fragment into the tetracyclin resistance gene of pBR322, which will enable us to select for tetracyclic sensitive clones (the tetracyclin resistance gene is marked by the blue annotation with the label "tet").

2.13.1 The cloning editor

Cloning in *CLC Combined Workbench* is carried out in the **Cloning Editor** ( ) which can contain a number of sequences. To open the two sequences - the pBR322 vector and the PCR fragment - in the cloning editor (additional sequences can be added later):

> **select 'pBR322' and 'PCR fragment with SphI sites' | Toolbox | Cloning and Restriction Sites ( ) | Cloning ( ) | OK**

This will show an information dialog which tells that the two sequences have been converted to a sequence list which can be saved in the **Navigation Area**. Click **OK** and the cloning editor will open as shown in figure 2.50.

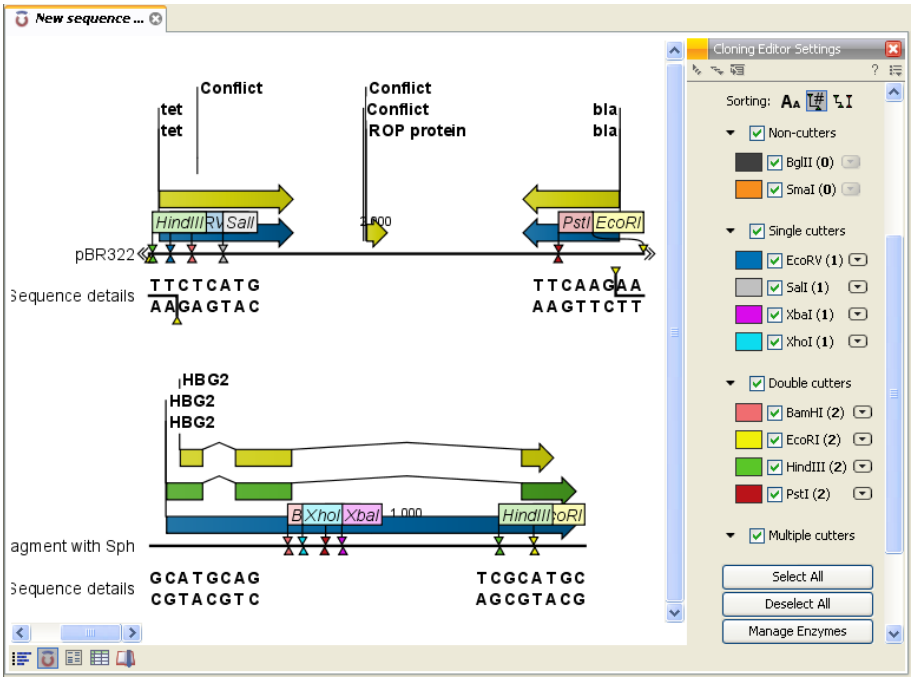

Figure 2.50: *Two sequences in the cloning editor: The vector and the PCR fragment.*

The small colored triangles represent restriction sites. Restriction sites for 10 different enzymes are shown per default, but for now we are only interested in the SphI sites which are not shown. To hide the other restriction sites and add the SphI enzyme:

> **Restriction sites in the Side Panel | Deselect all | Edit enzymes | find and double-click SphI in the upper list | Finish**

Notice that there are two SphI sites at the ends of the PCR fragment and that there is one SphI site in the middle of the tetracyclin resistance gene of pBR322. We are going to insert the fragment at this SphI site. There are two steps in this: First we have to cut the fragment with the SphI enzyme. This will produce a new fragment with "sticky ends" since the SphI enzyme creates a 3' overhang. Second, this fragment has to be inserted at vector's SphI site.

2.13.2 Cutting the PCR fragment with the SphI enzyme

To cut the PCR fragment with the SphI enzyme:

> **right-click one of the SphI restriction sites | Cut Sequence at All SphI Sites**

This will cut the sequence at the two SphI sites and generate three new fragments as seen in figure 2.51.

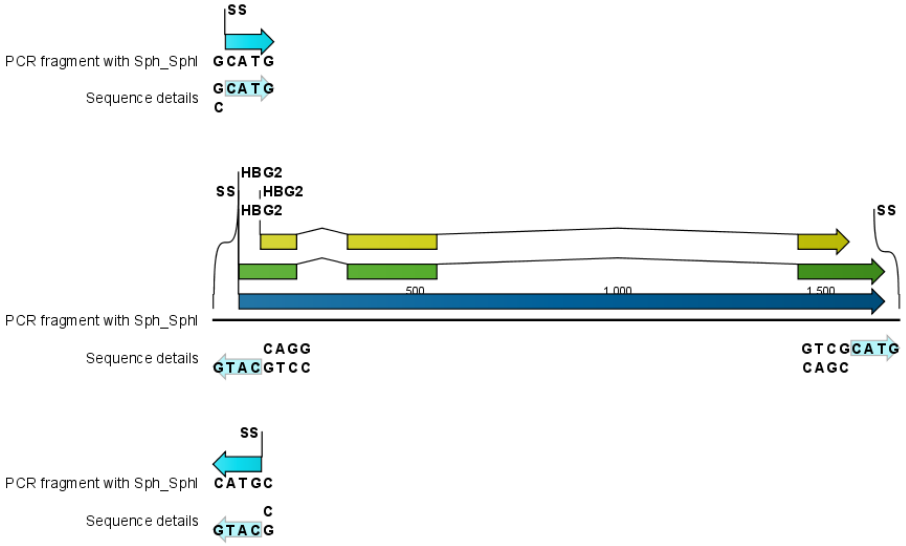

Figure 2.51: *The PCR fragment cut with SphI enzyme. The single stranded regions are illustrated with a blue annotations labeled "SS".*

We do not need the two small leftovers so these can just be deleted:

> **right-click each of the small fragments | Delete Sequence**

2.13.3 Inserting the fragment in the vector

Find and select the SphI restriction site at position 567 of the donor plasmid, pBR322. To insert the PCR fragment at this position:

> **right-click the SphI restriction site in pBR322 | Insert Sequence at This SphI site | Select the PCR fragment from the drop-down list | Select**

This will produce a result shown in figure 2.52.

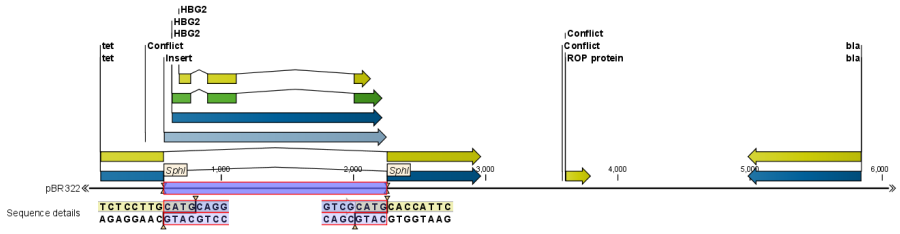

Figure 2.52: *The fragment has been inserted into the cloning vector. Notice that the sequence inserted is automatically selected and both ends of the inserted fragment are shown in the sequence details.*

Now the fragment has been inserted, and you can see how it breaks up the tetracyclin resistance gene. If you had another sequence with an overhang different from the one created by the SphI enzyme, you would not be able to insert this.

Open the sequence in a circular view and see that the tetracycline gene is disrupted by an insert of the *HBG2* gene:

right-click the name of the pBR322 sequence | Open Sequence in Circular View

This will show a circular view of the plasmid as shown in figure 2.53.

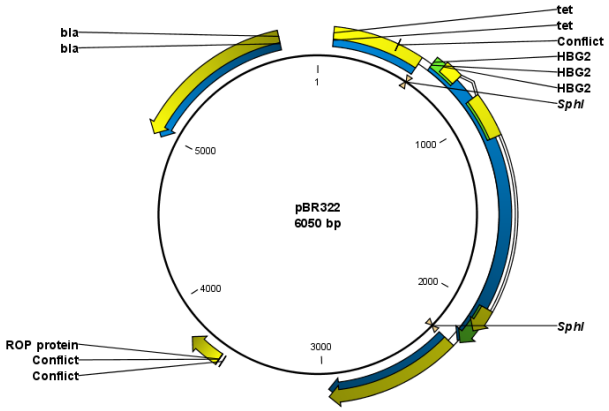

Figure 2.53: *A circular view of the result of the cloning tutorial.*

This very short walk-through shows some of the cloning capabilities which are included in *CLC Combined Workbench*, but there are many other ways to manipulate sequences in the cloning editor. To see all the possibilities, press **F1** and read the help section for the cloning editor. However, all of the possibilities have one thing in common: they are all accessed by right-clicking selections, restriction sites or sequence names.

2.14 Tutorial: Folding RNA molecules

In this tutorial, you will learn how to predict the secondary structure of an RNA molecule. You will also learn how to use the powerful ways of viewing and interacting with graphical displays of the structure.

The sequence to be folded in this tutorial is a tRNA molecule with the characteristic secondary structure as shown in figure 2.54.

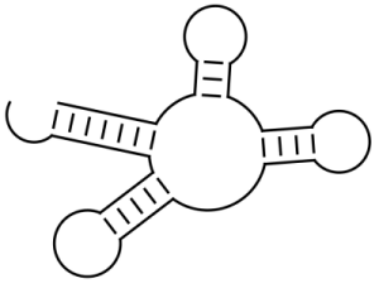

Figure 2.54: *Secondary structure of a tRNA molecule.*

The goal for this tutorial is to get a nice-looking graphic result of this structure.

The sequence we are working with is a mitochondrial tRNA molecule from *Drosophilia melanogaster*. The name is *AB009835*, and it is located in the example data under *Nucleotide -> RNA*.

Select the sequence AB009835 | Toolbox | RNA Structure ( ) | Predict Secondary Structure ( )

Since the sequence is already selected, click **Next**. In this dialog, choose to compute a sample of sub-optimal structure and leave the rest of the settings at their default (see figure 2.55).

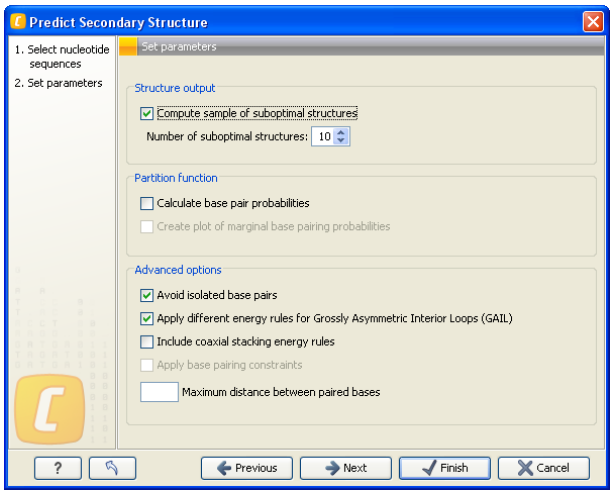

Figure 2.55: *Selecting to compute 10 suboptimal structures.*

Click **Finish** and you will see a linear view of the sequence with structure information for the ten structures below the sequence, and the elements of the best structure are shown as annotations above the sequence (see figure 2.56).

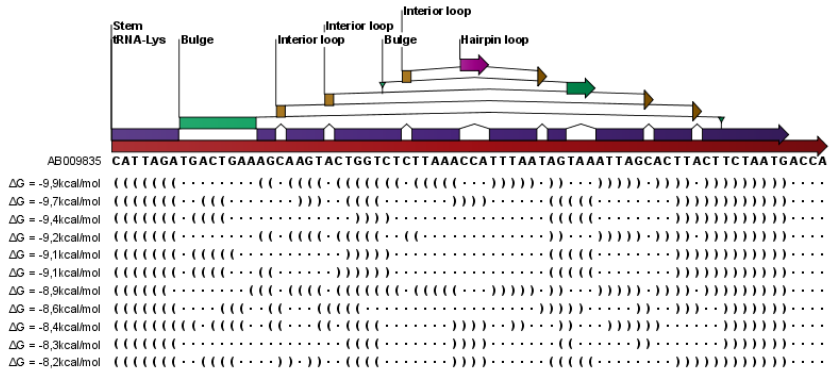

Figure 2.56: *The inital, linear view of the secondary structure prediction.*

For now, we are not interested in the linear view. Click the **Show Secondary Structure 2D View** ( ) button at the bottom of the view to show the secondary structure. It looks as shown in figure 2.57).

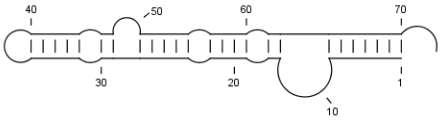

Figure 2.57: *The inital 2D view of the secondary structure.*

This structure does not look like the one we expected (shown in figure 2.54). We now take a look at some of the other structures (we chose to compute 10 different structures) to see if we can find the classic tRNA structure. First, open a split view of the **Show Secondary Structure Table** ( ):

Press and hold Ctrl (⌘ on Mac) | Show Secondary Structure Table ( )

You will now see a table displaying the ten structures. Selecting a structure in the table will display this structure in the view above. Select the second structure in the table. The views should now look like figure 2.58).

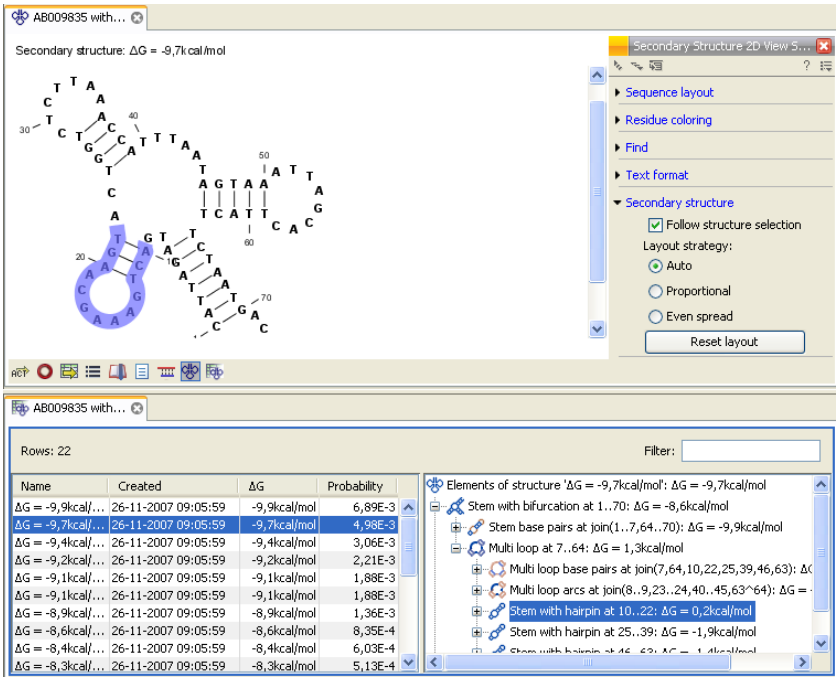

Figure 2.58: *A split view showing the scondary structure table at the bottom and the Secondary structure 2D view at the top. (You might need to Zoom out to see the structure).*

The secondary structure now looks very similar to figure 2.54. By adjusting the layout, we can make it look exactly the same: in the Side Panel of the 2D view, under **Secondary Structure**, choose the **Proportional** layout strategy. You will now see that the appearance of structure changes.

Next, zoom in on the structure to see the residues. This is easiest if you first close ( ) the table view at the bottom.

Zoom in ( ) | Click the structure until you see the residues

If you wish to make some manual corrections of the layout of the structure, first select the **Pan** ( ) mode in the Tool bar. Now place the mouse cursor on the opening of a stem, and a visual indication of the anchor point for turning the substructure will be shown (see figure 22.14).

Click and drag to rotate the part of the structure represented by the line going from the anchor point. In order to keep the bases in a relatively sequential arrangement, there is a restriction on how much the substructure can be rotated. The highlighted part of the circle represents the angle where rotating is allowed.

In figure 22.15, the structure shown in figure 22.14 has been modified by dragging with the

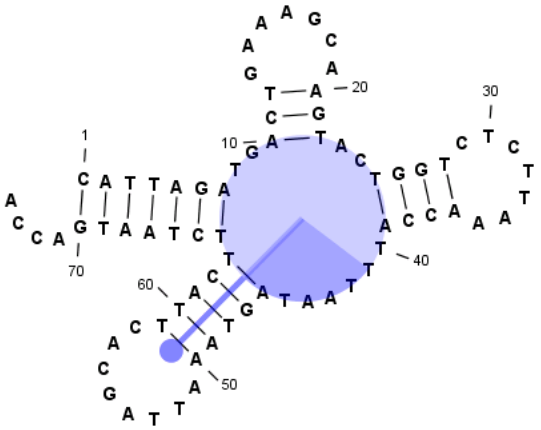

Figure 2.59: *The blue circle represents the anchor point for rotating the substructure.*

mouse.

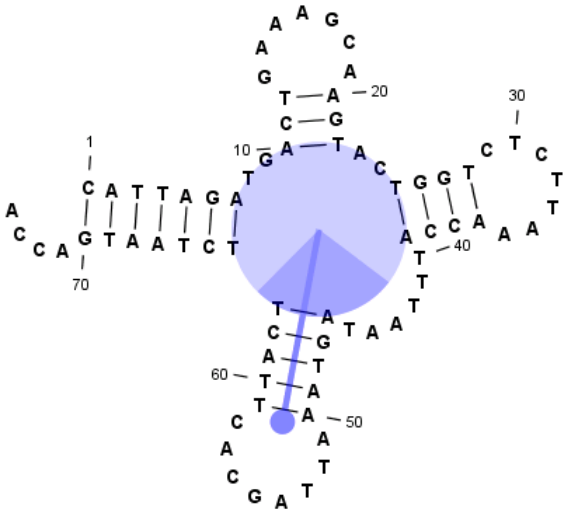

Figure 2.60: *The structure has now been rotated.*

The view can of course be printed ( ) or exported as graphics ( ).

Part II

Core Functionalities

Chapter 3

User interface

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This chapter provides an overview of the different areas in the user interface of *CLC Combined Workbench*. As can be seen from figure 3.1 this includes a **Navigation Area**, **View Area**, **Menu Bar**, **Toolbar**, **Status Bar** and **Toolbox**.

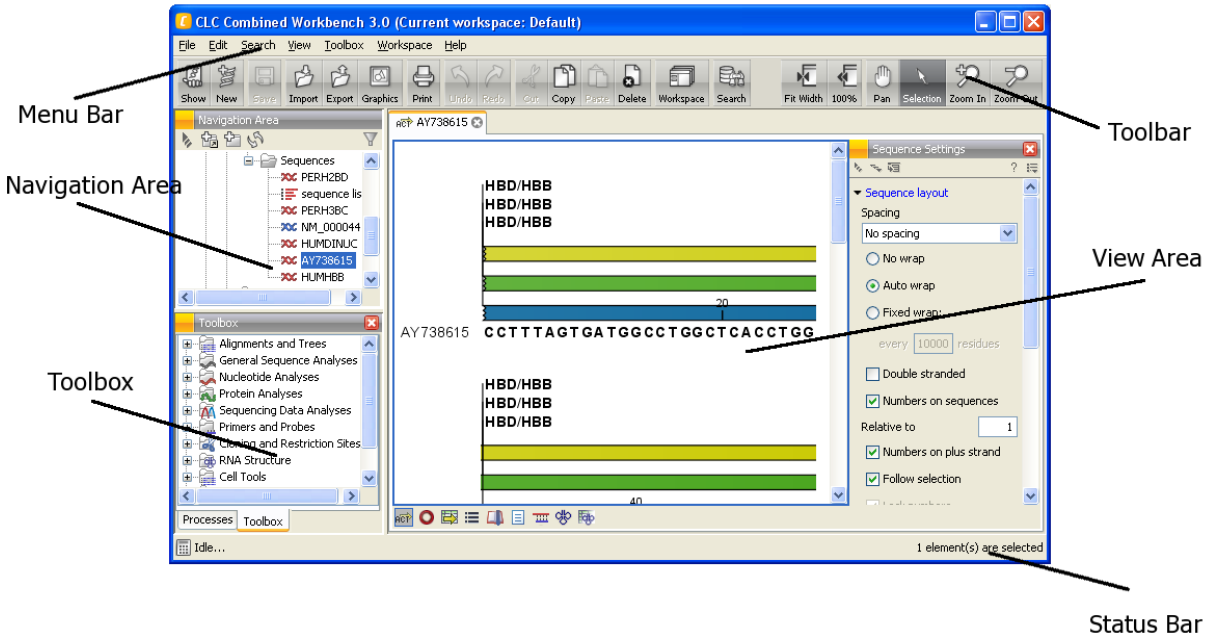

Figure 3.1: *The user interface consists of the Menu Bar, Toolbar, Status Bar, Navigation Area, Toolbox, and View Area.*

3.1 Navigation Area

The **Navigation Area** is located in the left side of the workbench, under the **Toolbar** (see figure 3.2). It is used for organizing and navigating data. Its behavior is similar to the way files and folders are usually displayed on your computer.

3.1.1 Data structure

The data in the **Navigation Area** is organized into a number of **Locations**. When you start the *CLC Combined Workbench* for the first time, there is one location called *CLC_Data*.

A location represents a folder on your computer: The data shown under a location in the **Navigation Area** is stored on your computer in the folder which the location points to.

This is explained visually in figure 3.3.

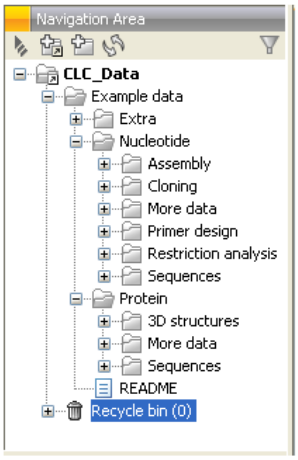

Figure 3.2: *The Navigation Area.*

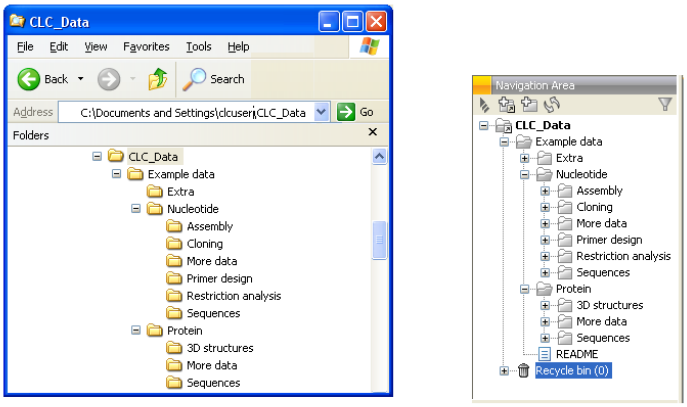

Figure 3.3: *In this example the location called 'CLC_Data' points to the folder at C:\Documents and settings\clcuser\CLC_Data.*

Adding locations

Per default, there is one location in the **Navigation Area** called CLC_Data. It points to the following folder:

- On Windows: C:\Documents and settings\<username>\CLC_Data
- On Mac: ~/CLC_Data
- On Linux: /homefolder/CLC_Data

You can easily add more locations to the **Navigation Area**:

File | **New** | **Location (** **)**

This will bring up a dialog where you can navigate to the folder you wish to use as your new location (see figure 3.4).

When you click **Open**, the new location is added to the **Navigation Area** as shown in figure 3.5.

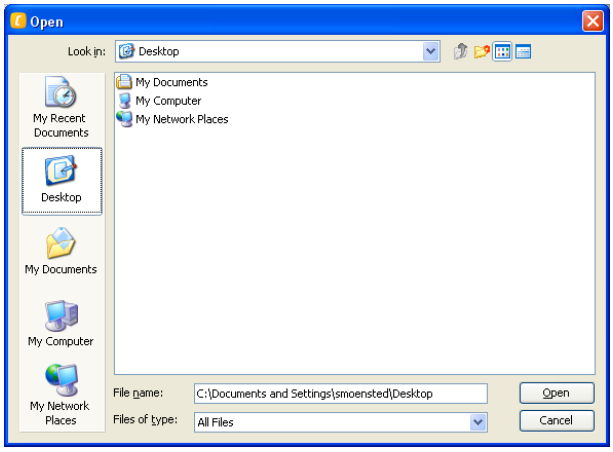

Figure 3.4: *Navigating to a folder to use as a new location.*

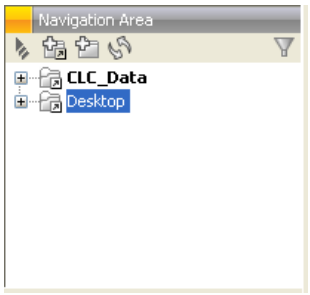

Figure 3.5: *The new location has been added.*

The name of the new location will be the name of the folder selected for the location. To see where the folder is located on your computer, you can either place your mouse cursor on the location icon ( ) for second, or you can right-click the location and choose **Properties**. This will show a dialog with the path to the location.

Sharing data is possible of you add a location on a network drive. The procedure is similar to the one described above. When you add a location on a network drive or a removable drive, the location will appear *inactive* when you are not connected. Once you connect to the drive again, click **Update All** ( ) and it will become active (note that there will be a few seconds' delay from you connect).

Opening data

The elements in the **Navigation Area** are opened by :

Double-click the element

or **Click the element | Show ( ) in the Toolbar | Select the desired way to view the element**

This will open a view in the **View Area**, which is described in section 3.2.

Adding data

Data can be added to the **Navigation Area** in a number of ways. Files can be imported from the file system (see chapter 7). Furthermore, an element can be added by dragging it into the **Navigation Area**. This could be views that are open, elements on lists, e.g. search hits or

sequence lists, and files located on your computer. Finally, you can add data by adding a new location (see section 3.1.1).

If a file or another element is dropped on a folder, it is placed at the bottom of the folder. If it is dropped on another element, it will be placed just below that element.

If the element already exists in the **Navigation Area**, you will be asked whether you wish to create a copy.

3.1.2 Create new folders

In order to organize your files, they can be placed in folders. Creating a new folder can be done in two ways:

right-click an element in the Navigation Area | **New** | **Folder (** **)**

or **File** | **New** | **Folder (** **)**

If a folder is selected in the **Navigation Area** when adding a new folder, the new folder is added at the bottom of this folder. If an element is selected, the new folder is added right above that element.

You can move the folder manually by selecting it and dragging it to the desired destination.

3.1.3 Sorting folders

You can sort the elements in a folder alphabetically:

right-click the folder | **Sort Folder**

On Windows, subfolders will be placed at the top of the folder, and the rest of the elements will be listed below in alphabetical order. On Mac, both subfolders and other elements are listed together in alphabetical order.

3.1.4 Multiselecting elements

Multiselecting elements means that you select more than one element at the same time. This can be done in the following ways:

- Holding down the <Ctrl> key (⌘ on Mac) while clicking on multiple elements selects the elements that have been clicked.
- Selecting one element, and selecting another element while holding down the <Shift> key selects all the elements listed between the two locations (the two end locations included).
- Selecting one element, and moving the curser with the arrow-keys while holding down the <Shift> key, enables you to increase the number of elements selected.

3.1.5 Moving and copying elements

Elements can be moved and copied in several ways:

- Using **Copy** ( ), **Cut** ( ) and **Paste** ( ) from the **Edit** menu.

- Using Ctrl + C (⌘ + C on Mac), Ctrl + X (⌘ + X on Mac) and Ctrl + V (⌘ + V on Mac).
- Using **Copy** (), **Cut** () and **Paste** () in the **Toolbar**.
- Using drag and drop to move elements.
- Using drag and drop while pressing Ctrl / Command to copy elements.

In the following, all of these possibilities for moving and copying elements are described in further detail.

Copy, cut and paste functions

Copies of elements and folders can be made with the copy/paste function which can be applied in a number of ways:

> **select the files to copy** | **right-click one of the selected files** | **Copy ()** | **right-click the location to insert files into** | **Paste ()**

or **select the files to copy** | **Ctrl + C (⌘ + C on Mac)** | **select where to insert files** | **Ctrl + P (⌘ + P on Mac)**

or **select the files to copy** | **Edit in the Menu Bar** | **Copy ()** | **select where to insert files** | **Edit in the Menu Bar** | **Paste ()**

If there is already an element of that name, the pasted element will be renamed by appending a number at the end of the name.

Elements can also be moved instead of copied. This is done with the cut/paste function:

> **select the files to cut** | **right-click one of the selected files** | **Cut ()** | **right-click the location to insert files into** | **Paste ()**

or **select the files to cut** | **Ctrl + X (⌘ + X on Mac)** | **select where to insert files** | **Ctrl + V (⌘ + V on Mac)**

When you have cut the element, it is "greyed out" until you activate the paste function. If you change your mind, you can revert the cut command by copying another element.

Move using drag and drop

Using drag and drop in the **Navigation Area**, as well as in general, is a four-step process:

> **click the element** | **click on the element again, and hold left mouse button** | **drag the element to the desired location** | **let go of mouse button**

This allows you to:

- Move elements between different folders in the **Navigation Area**
- Drag from the **Navigation Area** to the **View Area**: A new view is opened in an existing **View Area** if the element is dragged from the **Navigation Area** and dropped next to the tab(s) in that **View Area**.
- Drag from the **View Area** to the **Navigation Area**: The element, e.g. a sequence, alignment, search report etc. is saved where it is dropped. If the element already exists, you are asked

whether you want to save a copy. You drag from the **View Area** by dragging the tab of the desired element.

Use of drag and drop is supported throughout the program. Further description of the function is found in connection with the relevant functions.

Copy using drag and drop

To copy instead of move using drag and drop, hold the Ctrl (⌘ on Mac) key while dragging::

> **click the element | click on the element again, and hold left mouse button | drag the element to the desired location | press Ctrl (⌘ on Mac) while you let go of mouse button release the Ctrl/⌘ button**

3.1.6 Change element names

This section describes two ways of changing the names of sequences in the **Navigation Area**. In the first part, the sequences themselves are not changed - it's their representation that changes. The second part describes how to change the name of the element.

Change how sequences are displayed

Sequence elements can be displayed in the **Navigation Area** with different types of information:

- Name (this is the default information to be shown).
- Accession (sequences downloaded from databases like GenBank have an accession number).
- Latin name.
- Latin name (accession).
- Common name.
- Common name (accession).

Whether sequences can be displayed with this information depends on their origin. Sequences that you have created yourself or imported might not include this information, and you will only be able to see them represented by their name. However, sequences downloaded from databases like GenBank will include this information. To change how sequences are displayed:

> **right-click any element or folder in the Navigation Area | Sequence Representation | select format**

This will only affect sequence elements, and the display of other types of elements, e.g. alignments, trees and external files, will be not be changed. If a sequence does not have this information, there will be no text next to the sequence icon.

Rename element

Renaming a folder or an element can be done in three different ways:

select the element | **Edit in the Menu Bar** | **Rename**

or **select the element** | **F2**

click the element once | **wait one second** | **click the element again**

When you can rename the element, you can see that the text is selected and you can move the cursor back and forth in the text. When the editing of the name has finished; press **Enter** or select another element in the **Navigation Area**. If you want to discard the changes instead, press the **Esc**-key.

3.1.7 Delete elements

Deleting a folder or an element can be done in two ways:

right-click the element | **Delete (** **)**

or **select the element** | **press Delete key**

This will cause the element to be moved to the **Recycle Bin** ( ) where it is kept until the recycle bin is emptied. This means that you can recover deleted elements later on.

Restore Deleted Elements

The elements in the **Recycle Bin** ( ) can be restored by dragging the elements with the mouse into the folder where they used to be.

If you have deleted large amounts of data taking up very much disk space, you can free this disk space by emptying the **Recycle Bin** ( ):

Edit in the Menu Bar | **Empty Recycle Bin (** **)**

Note! This cannot be undone, and you will therefore not be able to recover the data present in the recycle bin when it was emptied.

3.1.8 Show folder elements in View

A location or a folder might contain large amounts of elements. It is possible to view their elements in the **View Area**:

select a folder or location | **Show (** **) in the Toolbar** | **Contents (** **)**

When the elements are shown in the view, they can be sorted by clicking the heading of each of the columns. You can further refine the sorting by pressing Ctrl (⌘ on Mac) while clicking the heading of another column.

Sorting the elements in a view does not affect the ordering of the elements in the **Navigation Area**.

Note! The view only displays one "layer" at a time: the content of subfolders is not visible in this view.

3.1.9 Sequence properties

Sequences downloaded from databases have a number of properties, which can be displayed using the **Sequence Properties** function:

Right-click a sequence in the Navigation Area |Properties

This will show a dialog as shown in figure 3.6.

Figure 3.6: *Sequence properties for the HUMDINUC sequence.*

For a more comprehensive view of sequence information, see section 10.4.

3.2 View Area

The **View Area** is the right-hand part of the workbench interface, displaying your current work. The **View Area** may consist of one or more **Views**, represented by tabs at the top of the **View Area**.

This is illustrated in figure 3.7.

The tab concept is central to working with *CLC Combined Workbench*, because several operations can be performed by dragging the tab of a view, and extended right-click menus can be activated from the tabs.

This chapter deals with the handling of views inside a **View Area**. Furthermore, it deals with rearranging the views.

Section 3.3 deals with the zooming and selecting functions.

3.2.1 Open view

Opening a view can be done in a number of ways:

double-click an element in the Navigation Area

or **select an element in the Navigation Area | File | Show | Select the desired way to view the element**

or **select an element in the Navigation Area | Ctrl + O (⌘ + B on Mac)**

Opening a view while another view is already open, will show the new view in front of the other

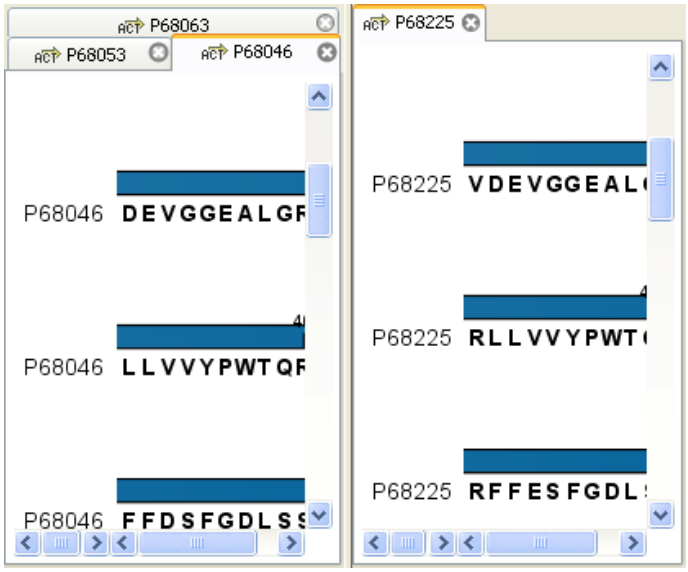

Figure 3.7: *A View Area can enclose several views, each view is indicated with a tab (see right view, which shows protein P68225). Furthermore, several views can be shown at the same time (in this example, four views are displayed).*

view. The view that was already open can be brought to front by clicking its tab.

Note! If you right-click an open tab of any element, click **Show**, and then choose a different view of the same element, this new view is automatically opened in a split-view, allowing you to see both views.

See section 3.1.5 for instructions on how to open a view using drag and drop.

3.2.2 Show element in another view

Each element can be shown in different ways. A sequence, for example, can be shown as linear, circular, text etc.

In the following example, you want to see a sequence in a circular view. If the sequence is already open in a view, you can change the view to a circular view:

Click Show As Circular ( ) at the lower left part of the view

The buttons used for switching views are shown in figure 3.8).

Figure 3.8: *The buttons shown at the bottom of a view of a nucleotide sequence. You can click the buttons to change the view to e.g. a circular view or a history view.*

If the sequence is already open in a linear view ( ), and you wish to see both a circular and a linear view, you can split the views very easily:

Press Ctrl (⌘ on Mac) while you | Click Show As Circular ( ) at the lower left part of the view

This will open a split view with a linear view at the bottom and a circular view at the top (see 10.14).

You can also show a circular view of a sequence without opening the sequence first:

Select the sequence in the Navigation Area | Show ( ) | As Circular ( )

3.2.3 Close views

When a view is closed, the **View Area** remains open as long as there is at least one open view.

A view is closed by:

right-click the tab of the View | Close

or **select the view | Ctrl + W**

or **hold down the Ctrl-button | Click the tab of the view while the button is pressed**

By right-clicking a tab, the following close options exist. See figure 3.9

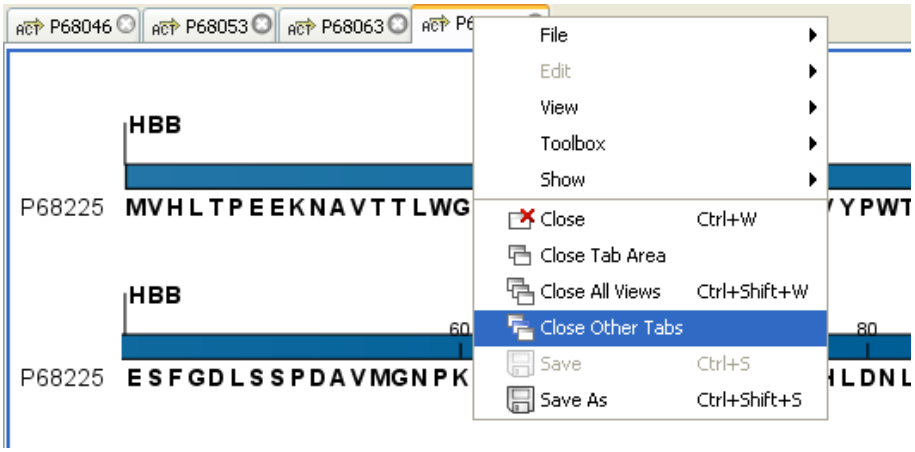

Figure 3.9: *By right-clicking a tab, several close options are available.*

- **Close.** See above.
- **Close Tab Area.** Closes all tabs in the tab area.
- **Close All Views.** Closes all tabs, in all tab areas. Leaves an empty workspace.
- **Close Other Tabs.** Closes all other tabs in the particular tab area.

3.2.4 Save changes in a view

When changes are made in a view, the text on the tab appears *bold and italic* (on Mac it is indicated by an * before the name of the tab). This indicates that the changes are not saved. The **Save** function may be activated in two ways:

Click the tab of the view you want to save | Save ( ) in the toolbar.

or **Click the tab of the view you want to save | Ctrl + S (⌘ + S on Mac)**

If you close a view containing an element that has been changed since you opened it, you are asked if you want to save.

When saving a new view that has not been opened from the Navigation Area (e.g. when opening a sequence from a list of search hits), a save dialog appears (figure 3.10).

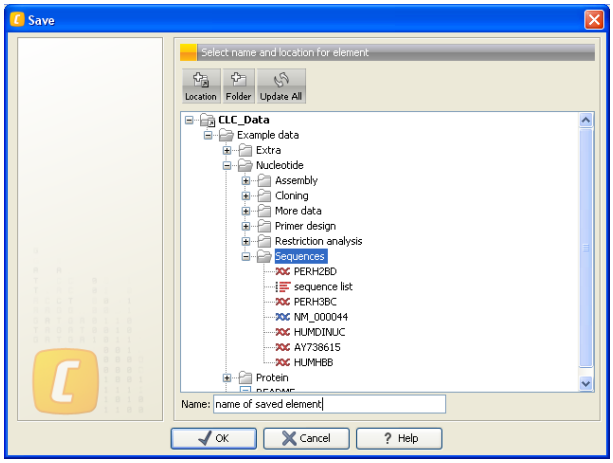

Figure 3.10: *Save dialog.*

In the dialog you select the folder in which you want to save the element.

After naming the element, press **OK**

3.2.5 Undo/Redo

If you make a change in a view, e.g. remove an annotation in a sequence or modify a tree, you can undo the action. In general, **Undo** applies to all changes you can make when right-clicking in a view. **Undo** is done by:

Click undo ( ) in the Toolbar

or **Edit | Undo ( )**

or **Ctrl + Z**

If you want to undo several actions, just repeat the steps above. To reverse the undo action:

Click the redo icon in the Toolbar

or **Edit | Redo ( )**

or **Ctrl + Y**

Note! Actions in the **Navigation Area**, e.g. renaming and moving elements, cannot be undone. However, you can restore deleted elements (see section 3.1.7).

You can set the number of possible undo actions in the Preferences dialog (see section 5).

3.2.6 Arrange views in View Area

Views are arranged in the **View Area** by their tabs. The order of the **views** can be changed using drag and drop. E.g. drag the tab of one view onto the tab of a another. The tab of the first view is now placed at the right side of the other tab.

If a tab is dragged into a view, an area of the view is made gray (see fig. 3.11) illustrating that

the view will be placed in this part of the **View Area**.

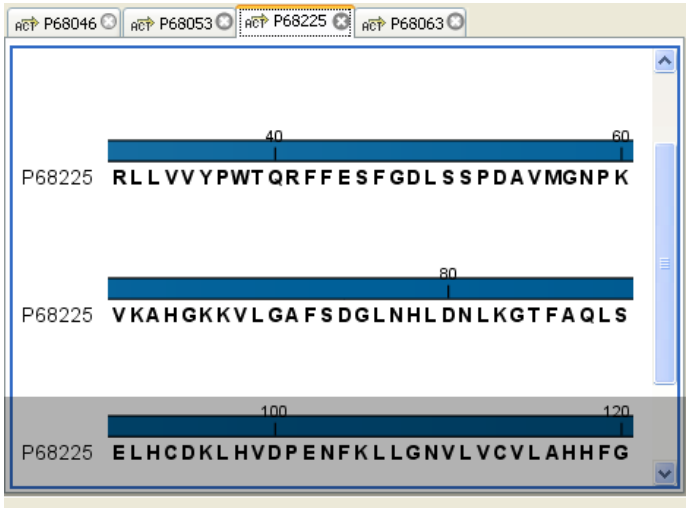

Figure 3.11: *When dragging a view, a gray area indicates where the view will be shown.*

The results of this action is illustrated in figure 3.12.

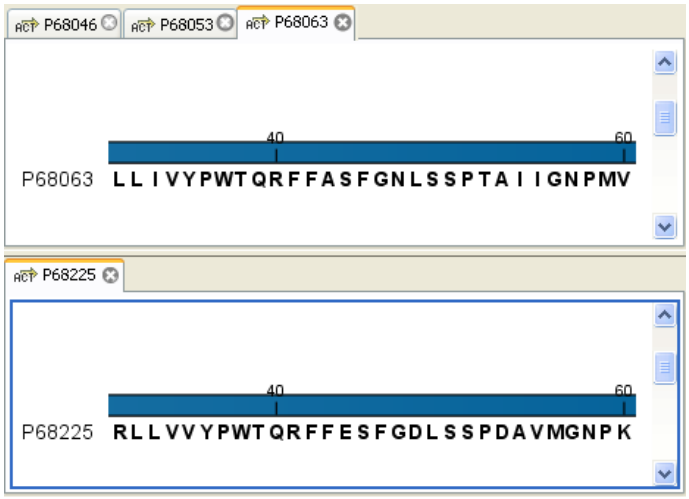

Figure 3.12: *A horizontal split-screen. The two views split the View Area.*

You can also split a **View Area** horizontally or vertically using the menus.

Splitting horisontally may be done this way:

right-click a tab of the view | **View** | **Split Horizontally (** **)**

This action opens the chosen view below the existing view. (See figure 3.13). When the split is made vertically, the new view opens to the right of the existing view.

Splitting the **View Area** can be undone by dragging e.g. the tab of the bottom view to the tab of the top view. This is marked by a gray area on the top of the view.

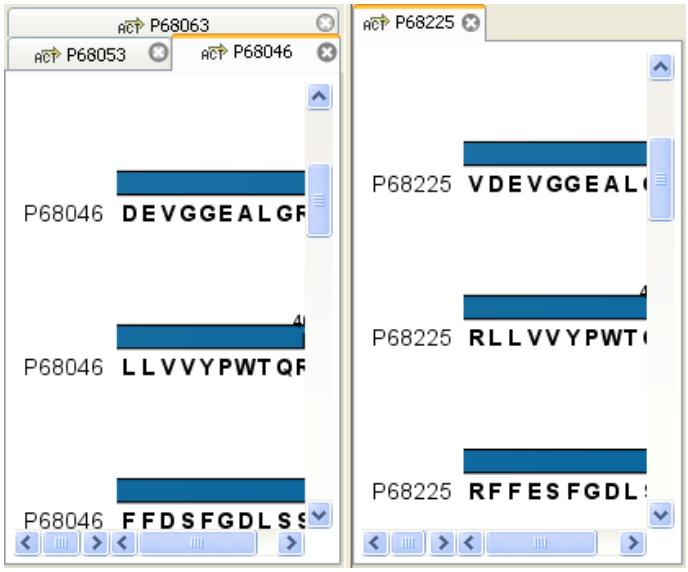

Figure 3.13: *A vertical split-screen.*

Maximize/Restore size of view

The **Maximize/Restore View** function allows you to see a view in maximized mode, meaning a mode where no other **views** nor the **Navigation Area** is shown.

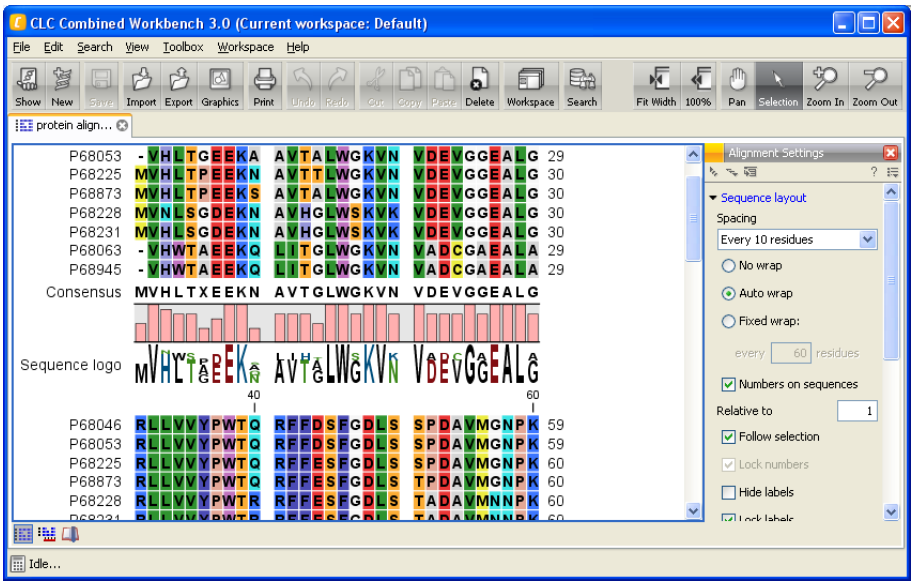

Figure 3.14: *A maximized view. The function hides the Navigation Area and the Toolbox.*

Maximizing a view can be done in the following ways:

select view | **Ctrl + M**

or **select view** | **View** | **Maximize/restore View ( )**

or **select view** | **right-click the tab** | **View** | **Maximize/restore View ( )**

or **double-click the tab of view**

The following restores the size of the view:

Ctrl + M

or **View** | **Maximize/restore View (** **)**

or **double-click title of view**

3.2.7 Side Panel

The **Side Panel** allows you to change the way the contents of a view are displayed. The options in the **Side Panel** depend on the kind of data in the view, and they are described in the relevant sections about sequences, alignments, trees etc.

Side Panel are activated in this way:

select the view | **Ctrl + U (⌘ + U on Mac)**

or **right-click the tab of the view** | **View** | **Show/Hide Side Panel (** **)**

Note! Changes made to the **Side Panel** will not be saved when you save the view. See how to save the changes in the **Side Panel** in chapter 5 .

The **Side Panel** consists of a number of groups of preferences (depending on the kind of data being viewed), which can be expanded and collapsed by clicking the header of the group. You can also expand or collapse all the groups by clicking the icons ()/ () at the top.

3.3 Zoom and selection in View Area

The mode toolbar items in the right side of the **Toolbar** apply to the function of the mouse pointer. When e.g. **Zoom Out** is selected, you zoom out each time you click in a view where zooming is relevant (texts, tables and lists cannot be zoomed). The chosen mode is active until another mode toolbar item is selected. (**Fit Width** and **Zoom to 100%** do not apply to the mouse pointer.)

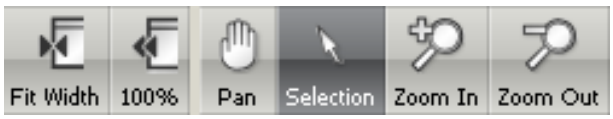

Figure 3.15: *The mode toolbar items.*

3.3.1 Zoom In

There are four ways of **Zooming In**:

Click Zoom In (**) in the toolbar** | **click the location in the view that you want to zoom in on**

or **Click Zoom In (** **) in the toolbar** | **click-and-drag a box around a part of the view** | **the view now zooms in on the part you selected**

or **Press '+' on your keyboard**

The last option for zooming in is only available if you have a mouse with a scroll wheel:

or **Press and hold Ctrl (⌘ on Mac)** | **Move the scroll wheel on your mouse forward**

When you choose the Zoom In mode, the mouse pointer changes to a magnifying glass to reflect the mouse mode.

Note! You might have to click in the view before you can use the keyboard or the scroll wheel to zoom.

If you press the **Shift** button on your keyboard while clicking in a **View**, the zoom function is reversed. Hence, clicking on a sequence in this way while the **Zoom In** mode toolbar item is selected, zooms out instead of zooming in.

3.3.2 Zoom Out

It is possible to zoom out, step by step, on a sequence:

Click Zoom Out ( ) in the toolbar | **click in the view until you reach a satisfying zoomlevel**.

or **Press '-' on your keyboard**

The last option for zooming out is only available if you have a mouse with a scroll wheel:

or **Press and hold Ctrl (⌘ on Mac)** | **Move the scroll wheel on your mouse backwards**

When you choose the Zoom Out mode, the mouse pointer changes to a magnifying glass to reflect the mouse mode.

Note! You might have to click in the view before you can use the keyboard or the scroll wheel to zoom.

If you want to get a quick overview of a sequence or a tree, use the **Fit Width** function instead of the **Zoom Out** function.

If you press **Shift** while clicking in a **View**, the zoom function is reversed. Hence, clicking on a sequence in this way while the **Zoom Out** mode toolbar item is selected, zooms in instead of zooming out.

3.3.3 Fit Width

The **Fit Width** ( ) function adjusts the content of the **View** so that both ends of the sequence, alignment, or tree is visible in the **View** in question. (This function does not change the mode of the mouse pointer.)

3.3.4 Zoom to 100%

The **Zoom to 100%** ( ) function zooms the content of the **View** so that it is displayed with the highest degree of detail. (This function does not change the mode of the mouse pointer.)

3.3.5 Move

The Move mode allows you to drag the content of a **View**. E.g. if you are studying a sequence, you can click anywhere in the sequence and hold the mouse button. By moving the mouse you move the sequence in the **View**.

3.3.6 Selection

The Selection mode ( ) is used for selecting in a **View** (selecting a part of a sequence, selecting nodes in a tree etc.). It is also used for moving e.g. branches in a tree or sequences in an alignment.

When you make a selection on a sequence or in an alignment, the location is shown in the bottom right corner of your workbench. E.g. '23^24' means that the selection is between two residues. '23' means that the residue at position 23 is selected, and finally '23..25' means that 23, 24 and 25 are selected. By holding ctrl / ⌘ you can make multiple selections.

3.4 Toolbox and Status Bar

The **Toolbox** is placed in the left side of the user interface of *CLC Combined Workbench* below the **Navigation Area**.

The **Toolbox** shows a **Processes tab** and a **Toolbox tab**.

3.4.1 Processes

By clicking the **Processes** tab, the **Toolbox** displays previous and running processes, e.g. an NCBI search or a calculation of an alignment. The running processes can be stopped, paused, and resumed.

Active buttons are blue.

If a process is terminated, the stop, pause, and play buttons of the process in question are made gray.

The terminated processes can be removed by:

View | **Remove Terminated Processes ( )**

Running and paused processes are not deleted.

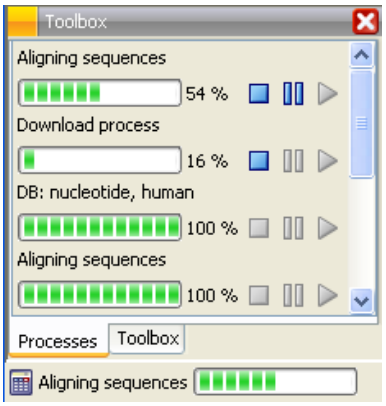

Figure 3.16: *Two running, and a number of terminated processes in the Toolbox.*

If you close the program while there are running processes, a dialog will ask if you are sure that you want to close the program. Closing the program will stop the process, and it cannot be

restarted when you open the program again.

3.4.2 Toolbox

The content of the **Toolbox** tab in the **Toolbox** corresponds to **Toolbox** in the **Menu Bar**.

The **Toolbox** can be hidden, so that the **Navigation Area** is enlarged and thereby displays more elements:

View | **Show/Hide Toolbox**

The tools in the toolbox can be accessed by double-clicking or by dragging elements from the **Navigation Area** to an item in the **Toolbox**.

3.4.3 Status Bar

As can be seen from figure 3.1, the **Status Bar** is located at the bottom of the window. In the left side of the bar is an indication of whether the computer is making calculations or whether it is idle. The right side of the **Status Bar** indicates the range of the selection of a sequence. (See chapter 3.3.6 for more about the Selection mode button.)

3.5 Workspace

If you are working on a project and have arranged the views for this project, you can save this arrangement using **Workspaces**. A Workspace remembers the way you have arranged the views, and you can switch between different workspaces.

The **Navigation Area** always contains the same data across **Workspaces**. It is, however, possible to open different folders in the different **Workspaces**. Consequently, the program allows you to display different clusters of the data in separate **Workspaces**.

All **Workspaces** are automatically saved when closing down *CLC Combined Workbench*. The next time you run the program, the **Workspaces** are reopened exactly as you left them.

Note! It is not possible to run more than one version of *CLC Combined Workbench* at a time. Use two or more **Workspaces** instead.

3.5.1 Create Workspace

When working with large amounts of data, it might be a good idea to split the work into two or more **Workspaces**. As default the *CLC Combined Workbench* opens one **Workspace**, (the largest window in the right side of the workbench, see figure 3.1). Additional **Workspaces** are created in the following way:

Workspace in the Menu Bar) | **Create Workspace** | **enter name of Workspace** | **OK**

When the new **Workspace** is created, the heading of the program frame displays the name of the new **Workspace**. Initially, the selected elements in the **Navigation Area** is collapsed and the **View Area** is empty and ready to work with. (See figure 3.17).

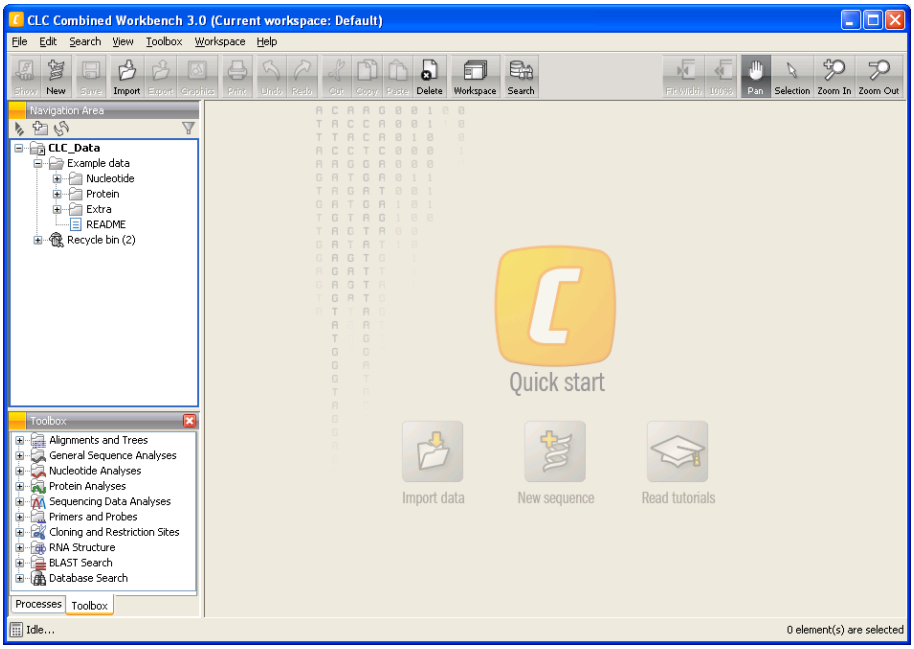

Figure 3.17: *An empty Workspace.*

3.5.2 Select Workspace

When there is more than one **Workspace** in the workbench, there are two ways to switch between them:

Workspace ( ) in the Toolbar | Select the Workspace to activate

or **Workspace in the Menu Bar | Select Workspace ( ) | choose which Workspace to activate | OK**

The name of the selected **Workspace** is shown after "*CLC Combined Workbench*" at the top left corner of the main window, in figure 3.17 it says: (default).

3.5.3 Delete Workspace

Deleting a **Workspace** can be done in the following way:

Workspace in the Menu Bar | Delete Workspace | choose which Workspace to delete | OK

Note! Be careful to select the right **Workspace** when deleting. The delete action cannot be undone. (However, no data is lost, because a workspace is only a representation of data.)

It is not possible to delete the default workspace.

3.6 List of shortcuts

The keyboard shortcuts in *CLC Combined Workbench* are listed below.

Action	Windows/Linux	Mac OS X
Adjust selection	Shift + arrow keys	Shift + arrow keys
Change between tabs[1]	Ctrl + tab	Ctrl + Page Up/Down
Close	Ctrl + W	⌘ + W
Close all views	Ctrl + Shift + W	⌘ + Shift + W
Copy	Ctrl + C	⌘ + C
Cut	Ctrl + X	⌘ + X
Delete	Delete	Delete or ⌘ + Backspace
Exit	Alt + F4	⌘ + Q
Export	Ctrl + E	⌘ + E
Export graphics	Ctrl + G	⌘ + G
Find Next Inconsistency	Space or .	Space or .
Find Previous Inconsistency	,	,
Help	F1	F1
Import	Ctrl + I	⌘ + I
Maximize/restore size of View	Ctrl + M	⌘ + M
Move gaps in alignment	Ctrl + arrow keys	⌘ + arrow keys
Navigate sequence views	left/right arrow keys	left/right arrow keys
New Folder	Ctrl + Shift + N	⌘ + Shift + N
New Sequence	Ctrl + N	⌘ + N
View	Ctrl + O	⌘ + O
Paste	Ctrl + V	⌘ + V
Print	Ctrl + P	⌘ + P
Redo	Ctrl + Y	⌘ + Y
Rename	F2	F2
Save	Ctrl + S	⌘ + S
Search local data	Ctrl + F	⌘ + F
Search in an open sequence	Ctrl + Shift + F	⌘ + Shift + F
Search NCBI	Ctrl + B	⌘ + B
Search UniProt	Ctrl + Shift + U	⌘ + Shift + U
Select All	Ctrl + A	⌘ + A
Selection Mode	Ctrl + 2	⌘ + 2
User Preferences	Ctrl + K	⌘ + ;
Split Horizontally	Ctrl + T	⌘ + T
Split Vertically	Ctrl + J	⌘ + J
Show/hide Preferences	Ctrl + U	⌘ + U
Undo	Ctrl + Z	⌘ + Z
Zoom In Mode	Ctrl + + (plus)	⌘ + 3
Zoom In (without clicking)	+ (plus)	+ (plus)
Zoom Out Mode	Ctrl + - (minus)	⌘ + 4
Zoom Out (without clicking)	- (minus)	- (minus)

Combinations of keys and mouse movements are listed below.

[1] On Linux changing tabs is accomplished using Ctrl + Page Up/Page Down

Action	Windows/Linux	Mac OS X	Mouse movement
Maximize View			Double-click the tab of the View
Restore View			Double-click the View title
Reverse zoom function	Shift	Shift	Click in view
Select multiple elements	Ctrl	⌘	Click elements
Select multiple elements	Shift	Shift	Click elements

Chapter 4

Searching your data

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There are two ways of doing text-based searches of your data, as described in this chapter:

- **Quick-search** directly from the search field in the **Navigation Area**.
- **Advanced search** which makes it easy to make more specific searches.

In most cases, quick-search will find what you need, but if you need to be more specific in your search criteria, the advanced search is preferable.

4.1 What kind of information can be searched?

Below is a list of the different kinds of information that you can search for (applies to both quick-search and the advanced search).

- **Name.** The name of a sequence, an alignment or any other kind of element. The name is what is displayed in the **Navigation Area** per default.
- **Length.** The length of the sequence.
- **Organism.** Sequences which contain information about organism can be searched. In this way, you could search for e.g. *Homo sapiens* sequences.

Only the first item in the list, **Name**, is available for all kinds of data. The rest is only relevant for sequences.

If you wish to perform a search for sequence similarity, use Local BLAST (see section 12.2) instead.

4.2 Quick search

At the bottom of the **Navigation Area** there is a text field as shown in figure 4.1).

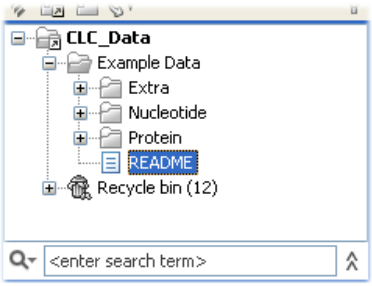

Figure 4.1: *Search simply by typing in the text field and press Enter.*

To search, simply enter a text to search for and press **Enter**.

4.2.1 Quick search results

To show the results, the search pane is expanded as shown in figure 4.2).

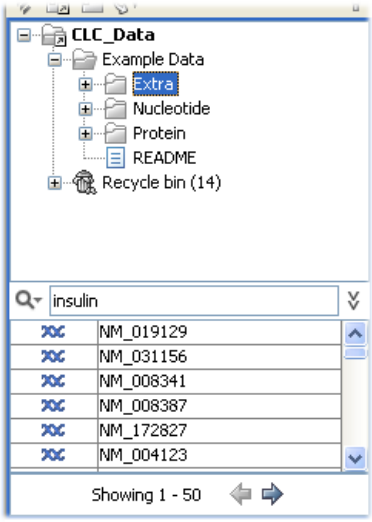

Figure 4.2: *Search results.*

If there are many hits, only the 50 first hits are immediately shown. At the bottom of the pane you can click **Next** ( ) to see the next 50 hits (see figure 4.3).

If a search gives no hits, you will be asked if you wish to search for matches that start with your search term. If you accept this, an asterisk (*) will be appended to the search term.

Pressing the Alt key while you click a search result will high-light the search hit in its folder in the **Navigation Area**.

In the preferences (see 5), you can specify the number of hits to be shown.

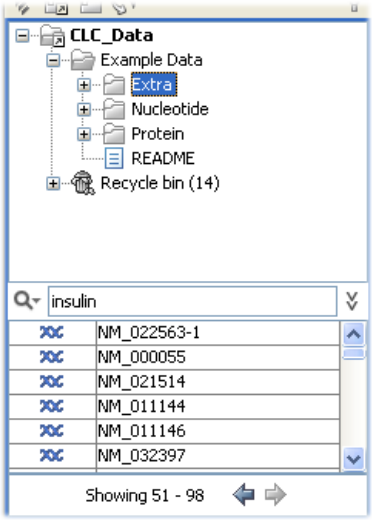

Figure 4.3: *Page two of the search results.*

4.2.2 Special search expressions

When you write a search term in the search field, you can get help to write a more advanced search expression by pressing **Shift+F1**. This will reveal a list of guides as shown in figure 4.4.

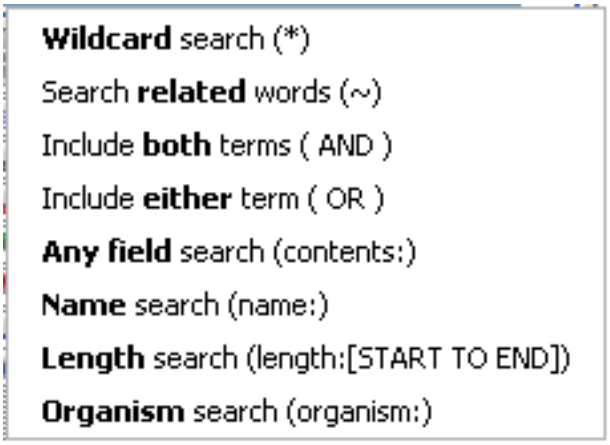

Figure 4.4: *Guides to help create advanced search expressions.*

You can select any of the guides (using mouse or keyboard arrows), and start typing. If you e.g. wish to search for sequences named BRCA1, select "Name search (name:)", and type "BRCA1". Your search expression will now look like this: "name:BRCA1".

The guides available are these:

- **Wildcard search (*)**. Appending an asterisk * to the search term will find matches starting with the term. E.g. searching for "brca*" will find both *brca1* and *brca2*.
- **Search related words ( )**. If you don't know the exact spelling of a word, you can append a question mark to the search term. E.g. "brac1*" will find sequences with a *brca1* gene.
- **Include both terms (AND)**. If you write two search terms, you can define if your results have to match both search terms by combining them with AND. E.g. search for "brca1 AND human" will find sequences where *both* terms are present.

- **Include either term (OR)**. If you write two search terms, you can define that your results have to match either of the search terms by combining them with OR. E.g. search for "brca1 OR brca2" will find sequences where *either* of the terms is present.
- **Name search (name:)**. Search only the name of element.
- **Organism search (organism:)**. For sequences, you can specify the organism to search for. This will look in the "Latin name" field which is seen in the **Sequence Info** view (see section 10.4).
- **Length search (length:[START TO END])**. Search for sequences of a specific length. E.g. search for sequences between 1000 and 2000 residues: "length:1000 TO 2000".

If you do not use this special syntax, you will automatically search for both name, description, organism, etc., and search terms will be combined as if you had put OR between them.

4.2.3 Quick search history

You can access the 10 most recent searches by clicking the icon ( ) next to the search field (see figure 4.5).

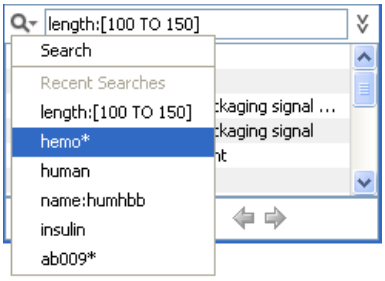

Figure 4.5: *Recent searches.*

Clicking one of the recent searches will conduct the search again.

4.3 Advanced search

As a supplement to the **Quick search** described in the previous section you can use the more advanced search:

Search | Local Search ( )

or **Ctrl + F (⌘ + F on Mac)**

This will open the search view as shown in figure 4.6

The first thing you can choose is which location should be searched. All the active locations are shown in this list. You can also choose to search all locations. Read more about locations in section 3.1.1.

Furthermore, you can specify what kind of elements should be searched:

- All sequences
- Nucleotide sequences

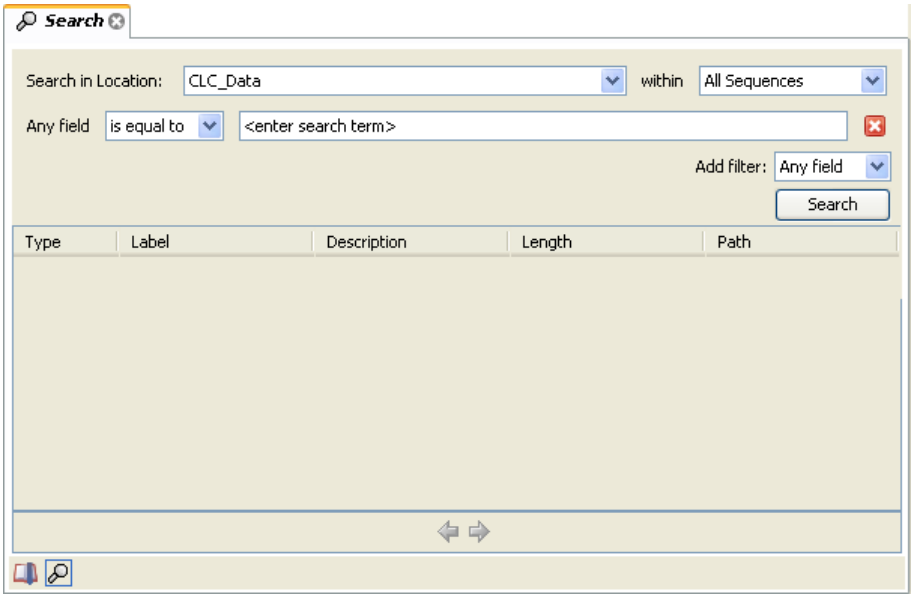

Figure 4.6: *Advanced search.*

- Protein sequences
- All data

When searching for sequences, you will also get alignments, sequence lists etc as result, if they contain a sequence which match the search criteria.

Below are the search criteria. First, select a relevant search filter in the **Add filter:** list. For sequences you can search for

- Name
- Length
- Organism

See section 4.2.2 for more information on individual search terms.

For all other data, you can only search for name. If you use **Any field**, it will search all of the above.

For each search line, you can choose if you want the exact term by selecting "is equal to" or if you only enter the start of the term you wish to find (select "begins with").

An example is shown in figure 4.7.

This example will find nucleotide sequences with a gene starting with *brca*, it will search for human sequences (organism is *Homo sapiens*), and it will only find sequences shorter than 10,000 nucleotides.

Note that a search can be saved ( ) for later use. You do not save the search results - only the search parameters. This means that you can easily conduct the same search later on when your data has changed.

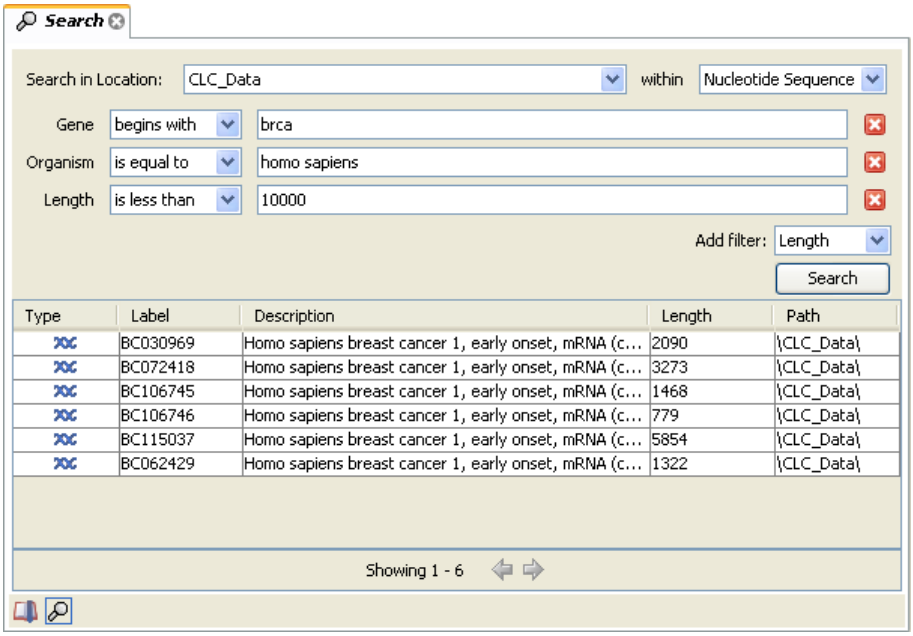

Figure 4.7: *Searching for human sequences shorter than 10,000 nucleotides, containing the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes.*

4.4 Search index

This section has a technical focus and is not relevant if your search works fine.

However, if you experience problems with your search results: if you do not get the hits you expect, it might be because of an index error.

The *CLC Combined Workbench* automatically maintains an index of all data in all locations in the **Navigation Area**. If this index becomes out of sync with the data, you will experience problems with strange results. In this case, you can rebuild the index:

Right-click the relevant location | **Location** | **Rebuild Index**

This will take a while depending on the size of your data. At any time, the process can be stopped in the process area, see section 3.4.1.

Chapter 5

User preferences and settings

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The first three sections in this chapter deal with the general preferences that can be set for *CLC Combined Workbench* using the **Preferences** dialog. The next section explains how the settings in the **Side Panel** can be saved and applied to other views. Finally, you can learn how to import and export the preferences.

The **Preferences** dialog offers opportunities for changing the default settings for different features of the program.

The **Preferences** dialog is opened in one of the following ways and can be seen in figure 5.1:

Edit | **Preferences (** **)**

or **Ctrl + K (⌘ + ; on Mac)**

5.1 General preferences

The **General** preferences include:

- **Undo Limit.** As default the undo limit is set to 500. By writing a higher number in this field, more actions can be undone. Undo applies to all changes made on sequences, alignments or trees. See section 3.2.5 for more on this topic.

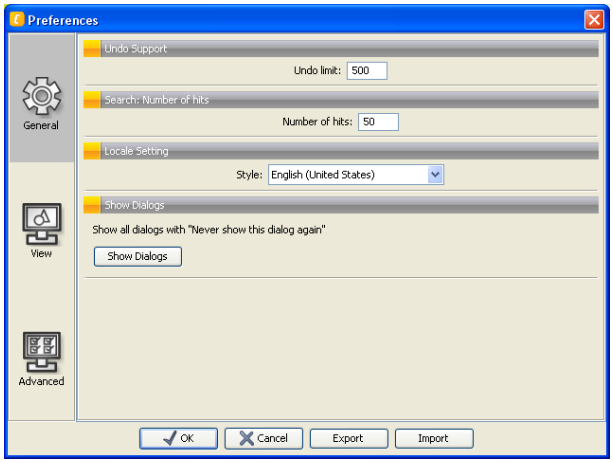

Figure 5.1: *Preferences include General preferences, View preferences, Colors preferences, and Advanced settings.*

- **Number of hits.** The number of hits shown in *CLC Combined Workbench*, when e.g. searching NCBI. (The sequences shown in the program are not downloaded, until they are opened or dragged/saved into the Navigation Area.
- **Locale Setting.** Specify which country you are located in. This determines how punctation is used in numbers all over the program.
- **Show Dialogs.** A lot of information dialogs have a checkbox: "Never show this dialog again". When you see a dialog and check this box in the dialog, the dialog will not be shown again. If you regret and wish to have the dialog displayed again, click the button in the General Preferences: **Show Dialogs**. Then all the dialogs will be shown again.

5.2 Default View preferences

There are five groups of default **View** settings:

1. **Toolbar**
2. **Side Panel Location**
3. **New View**
4. **View Format**
5. **User Defined View Settings**.

In general, these are default settings for the user interface.

The **Toolbar preferences** let you choose the size of the toolbar icons, and you can choose whether to display names below the icons.

The **Side Panel Location** setting lets you choose between **Dock in views** and **Float in window**. When docked in view, view preferences will be located in the right side of the view of e.g. an alignment. When floating in window, the side panel can be placed everywhere in your screen, also outside the workspace, e.g. on a different screen. See section 5.5 for more about floating side panels.

The **New view** setting allows you to choose whether the **View preferences** are to be shown automatically when opening a new view. If this option is not chosen, you can press (Ctrl + U (⌘ + U on Mac)) to see the preferences panels of an open view.

The **View Format** allows you to change the way the elements appear in the **Navigation Area**. The following text can be used to describe the element:

- Name (this is the default information to be shown).
- Accession (sequences downloaded from databases like GenBank have an accession number).
- Latin name.
- Latin name (accession).
- Common name.
- Common name (accession).

The **User Defined View Settings** gives you an overview of the different **Side Panel** settings that are saved for each view. See section 5.5 for more about how to create and save style sheets.

If there are other settings beside **CLC Standard Settings**, you can use this overview to choose which of the settings should be used per default when you open a view.

5.2.1 Import and export Side Panel settings

If you have created a special set of settings in the **Side Panel** that you wish to share with other users of CLC Workbenches, you can export the settings in a file. The other user can then import the settings and use it on another computer. When you export and import settings, it applies to *all* the settings for the different views.

To export the **Side Panel** settings, make sure you are at the bottom of the **View** panel of the **Preferences dialog**, and:

Export settings | **select a name and location for the settings file** | **Save**

Now the settings are saved in a file with a .vsf extension (View Settings File). This file can now be imported in a workbench on another computer.

To import a **Side Panel** settings file, make sure you are at the bottom of the **View** panel of the **Preferences dialog**, and:

Import settings | **locate and select the .vsf file** | **Import**

Then you will see the dialog shown in figure 5.2.

The dialog asks if you wish to overwrite existing **Side Panel** settings in your workbench, or if you wish to merge the imported settings into the existing ones.

Note! If you choose to overwrite the existing settings, you will loose all the **Side Panel** settings that you have previously saved.

To avoid confusion of the different import and export options, here is an overview:

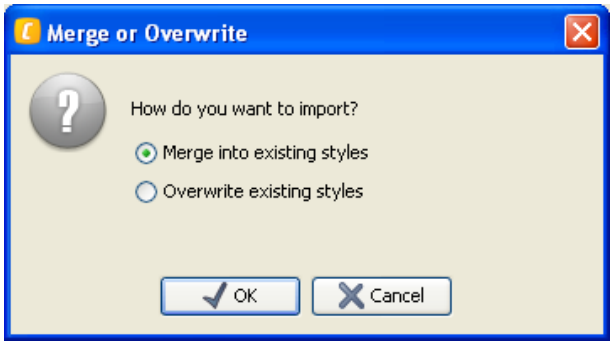

Figure 5.2: *When you import settings, you are asked if you wish to overwrite existing settings or if you wish to merge the new settings into the old ones.*

- Import and export of **bioinformatics data** such as sequences, alignments etc. (described in section 7.1.1).
- **Graphics** export of the views which creates image files in various formats (described in section 7.3).
- Import and export of **Side Panel Settings** as described above.
- Import and export of all the **Preferences** except the Side Panel settings. This is described in the previous section.

5.3 Advanced preferences

The **Advanced** settings include the possibility to set up a proxy server. This is described in section 1.8.

5.3.1 Default persistence location

If you have more than one location in the **Navigation Area**, you can choose which location should be the default location. The default locating is used when you e.g. import a file without selecting a folder or element in the **Navigation Area** first. Then the imported element will be placed in the default location.

Note! The default location cannot be removed. You have to select another location as default first.

5.3.2 URL to use for BLAST

It is possible to specify an alternate server URL to use for BLAST searches. The standard URL for the BLAST server at NCBI is: `http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/Blast.cgi`.

Note! Be careful to specify a valid URL, otherwise BLAST will not work.

5.4 Export/import of preferences

The user preferences of the *CLC Combined Workbench* can be exported to other users of the program, allowing other users to display data with the same preferences as yours. You can also

use the export/import preferences function to backup your preferences.

To export preferences, open the **Preferences** dialog (Ctrl + K (⌘ + ; on Mac)) and do the following:

> **Export** | **Select the relevant preferences** | **Export** | **Choose location for the exported file** | **Enter name of file** | **Save**

Note! The format of exported preferences is .cpf. This notation must be submitted to the name of the exported file in order for the exported file to work.

Before exporting, you are asked about which of the different settings you want to include in the exported file. One of the items in the list is "User Defined View Settings". If you export this, only the information about which of the settings is the default setting for each view is exported. If you wish to export the **Side Panel Settings** themselves, see section 5.2.1.

The process of importing preferences is similar to exporting:

> **Press Ctrl + K (⌘ + ; on Mac) to open Preferences** | **Import** | **Browse to and select the .cpf file** | **Import and apply preferences**

5.4.1 The different options for export and importing

To avoid confusion of the different import and export options, here is an overview:

- Import and export of **bioinformatics data** such as sequences, alignments etc. (described in section 7.1.1).
- **Graphics** export of the views which creates image files in various formats (described in section 7.3).
- Import and export of **Side Panel Settings** as described in the next section.
- Import and export of all the **Preferences** except the Side Panel settings. This is described above.

5.5 View settings for the Side Panel

The **Side Panel** is shown to the right of all views that are opened in *CLC Combined Workbench*. By using the settings in the **Side Panel** you can specify how the layout and contents of the view. Figure 5.3 is an example of the **Side Panel** of a sequence view.

By clicking the black triangles or the corresponding headings, the groups can be expanded or collapsed. An example is shown in figure 5.4 where the **Sequence layout** is expanded.

The content of the groups is described in the sections where the functionality is explained. E.g. **Sequence Layout** for sequences is described in chapter 10.1.1.

When you have adjusted a view of e.g. a sequence, your settings in the **Side Panel** can be saved. When you open other sequences, which you want to display in a similar way, the saved settings can be applied. The options for saving and applying are available in the top of the **Side Panel** (see figure 5.5).

To save and apply the saved settings, click ( ) seen in figure 5.5. This opens a menu, where the following options are available:

Figure 5.3: *The Side Panel of a sequence contains several groups: Sequence layout, Annotation types, Annotation layout, etc. Several of these groups are present in more views. E.g. Sequence layout is also in the Side Panel of alignment views.*

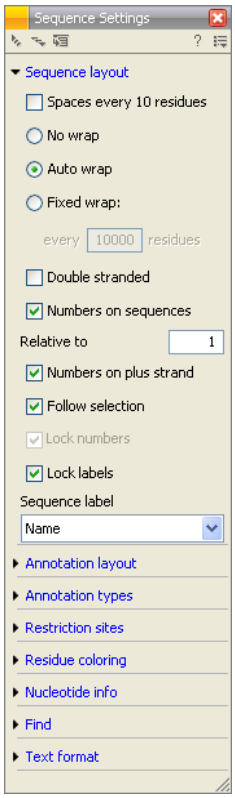

Figure 5.4: *The Sequence layout is expanded.*

- **Save Settings.** This brings up a dialog as shown in figure 5.6 where you can enter a name for your settings. Furthermore, by clicking the checkbox **Always apply these settings**, you can choose to use these settings every time you open a new view of this type. If you wish to change which settings should be used per default, open the **Preferences** dialog (see section 5.2).
- **Delete Settings.** Opens a dialog to select which of the saved settings to delete.
- **Apply Saved Settings.** This is a submenu containing the settings that you have previously

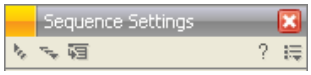

Figure 5.5: *At the top of the Side Panel you can: Expand all groups, Collapse all preferences, Dock/Undock preferences, Help, and Save/Restore preferences.*

saved. By clicking one of the settings, they will be applied to the current view. You will also see a number of pre-defined view settings in this submenu. They are meant to be examples of how to use the **Side Panel** and provide quick ways of adjusting the view to common usages. At the bottom of the list of settings you will see **CLC Standard Settings** which represent the way the program was set up, when you first launched it.

Figure 5.6: *The save settings dialog.*

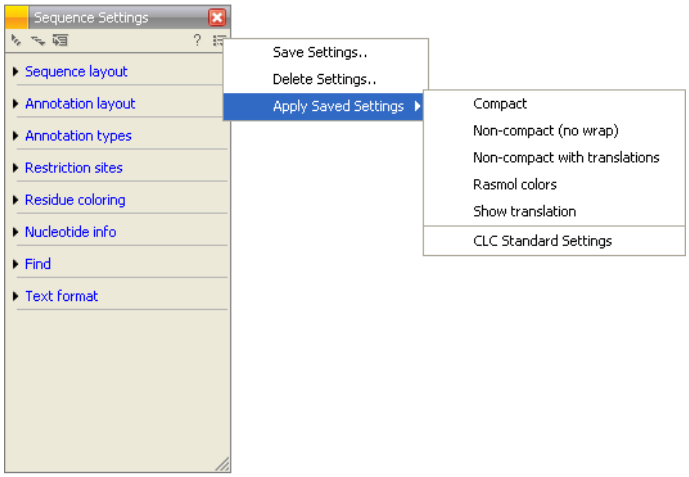

Figure 5.7: *Applying saved settings.*

The settings are specific to the type of view. Hence, when you save settings of a circular view, they will not be available if you open the sequence in a linear view.

If you wish to export the settings that you have saved, this can be done in the **Preferences** dialog under the **View** tab (see section 5.2.1).

The remaining icons of figure 5.5 are used to; **Expand all groups**, **Collapse all groups**, and **Dock/Undock Side Panel**. **Dock/Undock Side Panel** is to make the **Side Panel** "floating" (see below).

5.5.1 Floating Side Panel

The Side Panel of the views can be placed in the right side of a view, or it can be floating (see figure 5.8).

By clicking the Dock icon ( ) the floating Side Panel reappear in the right side of the view. The size of the floating Side Panel can be adjusted by dragging the hatched area in the bottom right.

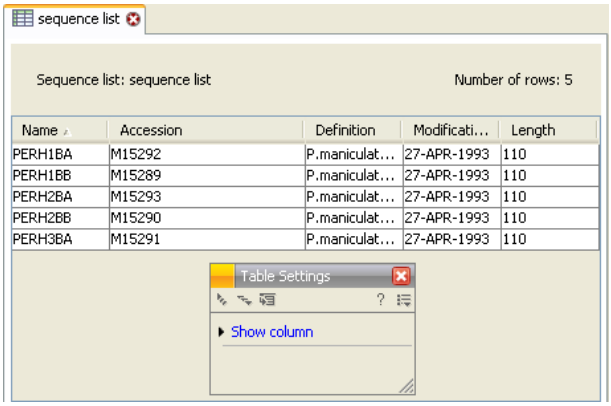

Figure 5.8: *The floating Side Panel can be moved out of the way, e.g. to allow for a wider view of a table.*

Chapter 6

Printing

Contents

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CLC Combined Workbench offers different choices of printing the result of your work.

This chapter deals with printing directly from the workbench. Another option for using the graphical output of your work, is to export graphics (see chapter 7.3) in a graphic format, and then import it into a document or a presentation.

All the kinds of data that you can view in the **View Area** can be printed. The *CLC Combined Workbench* uses a WYSIWYG principle: What You See Is What You Get. This means that you should use the options in the Side Panel to change how your data, e.g. a sequence, looks on the screen. When you print it, it will look exactly the same way on print as on the screen.

For some of the views, the layout will be slightly changed in order to be printer-friendly.

It is not possible to print elements directly from the **Navigation Area**. They must first be opened in a view in order to be printed. To print the contents of a view:

select relevant view | Print ( ) in the toolbar

This will show a print dialog (see figure 6.1).

In this dialog, you can:

- Select which part of the view you want to print.
- Adjust **Page Setup**.
- See a print **Preview** window.

These three options are described in the three following sections.

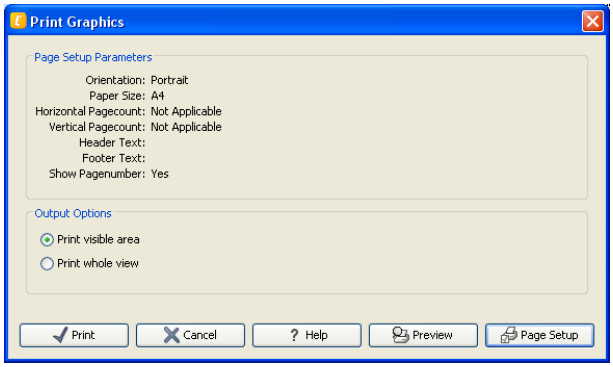

Figure 6.1: *The Print dialog.*

6.1 Selecting which part of the view to print

In the print dialog you can choose to:

- **Print visible area**, or
- **Print whole view**

These options are available for all views that can be zoomed in and out. In figure 6.2 is a view of a circular sequence which is zoomed in so that you can only see a part of it.

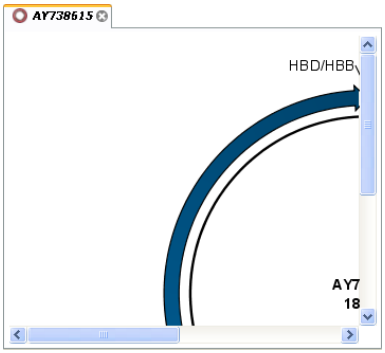

Figure 6.2: *A circular sequence as it looks on the screen.*

When selecting **Print visible area**, your print will reflect the part of the sequence that is *visible* in the view. The result from printing the view from figure 6.2 and choosing **Print visible area** can be seen in figure 6.3.

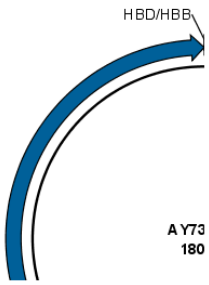

Figure 6.3: *A print of the sequence selecting Print visible area.*

On the other hand, if you select **Print whole view**, you will get a result that looks like figure 6.4. This means that you also print the part of the sequence which is not visible when you have zoomed in.

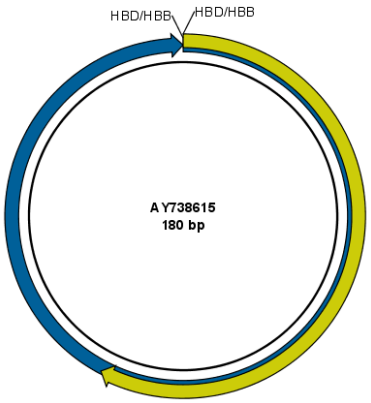

Figure 6.4: *A print of the sequence selecting Print whole view. The whole sequence is shown, even though the view is zoomed in on a part of the sequence.*

6.2 Page setup

No matter whether you have chosen to print the visible area or the whole view, you can adjust page setup of the print. An example of this can be seen in figure 6.5

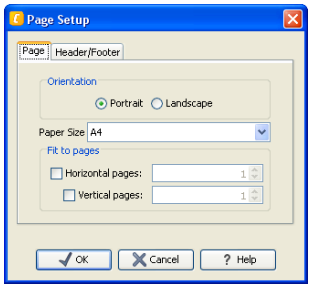

Figure 6.5: *Page Setup.*

In this dialog you can adjust both the setup of the pages and specify a header and a footer by clicking the tab at the top of the dialog.

You can modify the layout of the page using the following options:

- **Orientation**.
  - **Portrait**. Will print with the paper oriented vertically.
  - **Landscape**. Will print with the paper oriented horizontally.
- **Paper size**. Adjust the size to match the paper in your printer.
- **Fit to pages**. Can be used to control how the graphics should be split across pages (see figure 6.6 for an example).
  - **Horizontal pages**. If you set the value to e.g. 2, the printed content will be broken up horizontally and split across 2 pages. This is useful for sequences that are not wrapped

– **Vertical pages**. If you set the value to e.g. 2, the printed content will be broken up vertically and split across 2 pages.

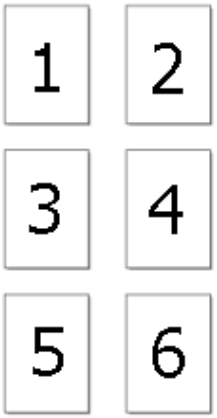

Figure 6.6: *An example where Fit to pages horizontally is set to 2, and Fit to pages vertically is set to 3.*

Note! It is a good idea to consider adjusting view settings (e.g. **Wrap** for sequences), in the **Side Panel** before printing. As explained in the beginning of this chapter, the printed material will look like the view on the screen, and therefore these settings should also be considered when adjusting **Page Setup**.

6.2.1 Header and footer

Click the **Header/Footer** tab to edit the header and footer text. By clicking in the text field for either **Custom header text** or **Custom footer text** you can access the auto formats for header/footer text in **Insert a caret position**. Click either **Date**, **View name**, or **User name** to include the auto format in the header/footer text.

Click **OK** when you have adjusted the **Page Setup**. The settings are saved so that you do not have to adjust them again next time you print. You can also change the **Page Setup** from the **File** menu.

6.3 Print preview

The preview is shown in figure 6.7.

The **Print preview** window lets you see the layout of the pages that are printed. Use the arrows in the toolbar to navigate between the pages. Click Print ( ) to show the print dialog, which lets you choose e.g. which pages to print.

The **Print preview** window is for preview only - the layout of the pages must be adjusted in the **Page setup**.

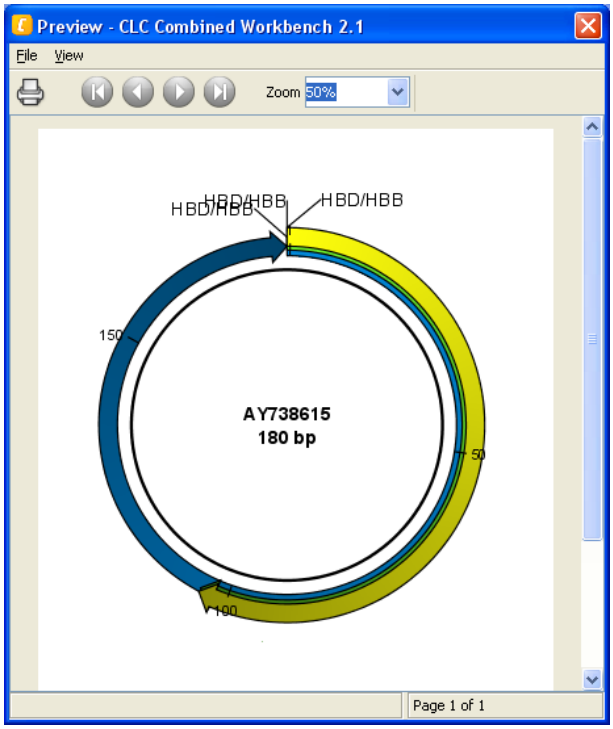

Figure 6.7: *Print preview.*

Chapter 7

Import/export of data and graphics

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CLC Combined Workbench handles a large number of different data formats. All data stored in the Workbench are available in the **Navigation Area**. The data of the **Navigation Area** can be divided into two groups. The data is either one of the different bioinformatic data formats, or it can be an 'external file'. Bioinformatic data formats are those formats which the program can work with, e.g. sequences, alignments and phylogenetic trees. External files are files or links which are stored in *CLC Combined Workbench*, but are opened by other applications, e.g. pdf-files, Microsoft Word files, Open Office spreadsheet files, or links to programs and web-pages etc.

This chapter first deals with importing and exporting data in bioinformatic data formats and as external files. Next comes an explanation of how to export graphics.

7.1 Bioinformatic data formats

The different bioinformatic data formats are imported in the same way, therefore, the following description of data import is an example which illustrates the general steps to be followed, regardless of which format you are handling.

7.1.1 Import of bioinformatic data

Here follows a list of the formats which *CLC Combined Workbench* handles, and a description of which type of data the different formats support.

File type	Suffix	File format used for
ACE files	.ace	contigs
Phylip Alignment	.phy	alignments
GCG Alignment	.msf	alignments
Clustal Alignment	.aln	alignments
Newick	.nwk	trees
FASTA	.fsa/.fasta	sequences
GenBank	.gbk/.gb/.gp	sequences
GCG sequence	.gcg	sequences (only import)
PIR (NBRF)	.pir	sequences (only import)
Staden	.sdn	sequences (only import)
DNAstrider	.str/.strider	sequences
Swiss-Prot	.swp	protein sequences
Lasergene sequence	.pro	protein sequence (only import)
Lasergene sequence	.seq	nucleotide sequence (only import)
Embl	.embl	nucleotide sequences
Nexus	.nxs/.nexus	sequences, trees, alignments, and sequence lists
CLC	.clc	sequences, trees, alignments, reports, etc.
Text	.txt	all data in a textual format
CSV	.csv	tables, each cell separated with semicolons (only export)
ABI	.abi	trace files (only import)
AB1	.ab1	trace files (only import)
SCF2	.scf	trace files (only import)
SCF3	.scf	trace files (only import)
Phred	.phd	trace files (only import)
mmCIF	.cif	structure (only import)
PDB	.pdb	structure (only import)
BLAST Database	.phr/.nhr	BLAST database (import)
Vector NTi Database		sequences (import of whole database)
VectorNTI achieves	.ma4/.pa4/.oa4	sequences (only import)
Gene Construction Kit	.gcc	sequences (only import)
RNA Structure	.ct/.col/.rnaml/.xml	RNA structures
Preferences	.cpf	CLC workbench preferences

Note! *CLC Combined Workbench* can import 'external' files, too. This means that all kinds of files can be imported and displayed in the **Navigation Area**, but the above mentioned formats are the only ones whose *contents* can be shown in *CLC Combined Workbench*.

The *CLC Combined Workbench* offers a lot of possibilities to handle bioinformatic data. Read the next sections to get information on how to import different file formats or to import data from a Vector NTI database.

Import using the import dialog

Before importing a file, you must decide where you want to import it, i.e. which location or folder. The imported file ends up in the location or folder you selected in the **Navigation Area**.

select location or folder | click Import ( ) in the Toolbar

This will show a dialog similar to figure 7.1 (depending on which platform you use). You can change which kind of file types that should be shown by selecting a file format in the **Files of type** box.

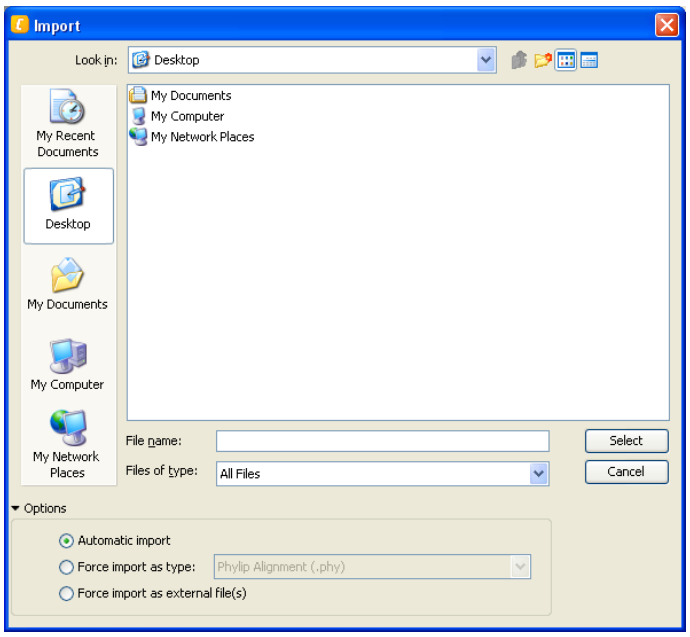

Figure 7.1: *The import dialog.*

Next, select one or more files or folders to import and click **Select**.

The imported files are placed at the location which was selected when the import was initiated. E.g. if you right-click on a file in the **Navigation Area** and choose import, the imported files are placed immediately below the selected file. If you right-click a folder, the imported files are placed as the last file in that folder. If you right-click a folder, the imported files are placed as the last elements in this folder.

If you import one or more folders, the contents of the folder is automatically imported and placed in that folder in the **Navigation Area**. If the folder contains subfolders, the whole folder structure is imported.

In the import dialog (figure 7.1), there are three import options:

Automatic import This will import the file and *CLC Combined Workbench* will try to determine the format of the file. The format is determined based on the file extension (e.g. SwissProt files have .swp at the end of the file name) in combination with a detection of elements in the file that are specific to the individual file formats. If the file type is not recognized, it will be imported as an external file. In most cases, automatic import will yield a successful result, but if the import goes wrong, the next option can be helpful:

Force import as type This option should be used if *CLC Combined Workbench* cannot successfully determine the file format. By forcing the import as a specific type, the automatic determination of the file format is bypassed, and the file is imported as the type specified.

Force import as external file This option should be used if a file is imported as a bioinformatics file when it should just have been external file. It could be an ordinary text file which is imported as a sequence.

Import using drag and drop

It is also possible to drag a file from e.g. the desktop into the **Navigation Area** of *CLC Combined Workbench*. This is equivalent to importing the file using the **Automatic import** option described above. If the file type is not recognized, it will be imported as an external file.

Import using copy/paste of text

If you have e.g. a text file or a browser displaying a sequence in one of the formats that can be imported by *CLC Combined Workbench*, there is a very easy way to get this sequence into the **Navigation Area**:

> **Copy the text from the text file or browser** | **Select a folder in the Navigation Area** | **Paste ( )**

This will create a new sequence based on the text copied. This operation is equivalent to saving the text in a text file and importing it into the *CLC Combined Workbench*.

If the sequence is not formatted, i.e. if you just have a text like this: "ATGACGAATAGGAGTTC-TAGCTA" you can also paste this into the **Navigation Area**.

Note! Make sure you copy all the relevant text - otherwise *CLC Combined Workbench* might not be able to interpret the text.

Import of Vector NTI data

CLC Combined Workbench can import DNA, RNA, and protein sequences from a Vector NTI Database. The import can be done for Vector NTI Advance^{TM}10 for Windows machines and Vector NTI Suite 7.1 for Mac OS X for Panther and former versions. A new folder will be placed in the **Navigation Area** and you can find all sequences in subfolders ready to work with. In order to import all DNA/RNA, protein and oligo sequences:

> **select File in the Menu Bar** | **Import VectorNTI Data..** | **select a database directory** | **Import** | **confirm the information**

Note! The default installation of the VectorNTI program for the database home is

- C:/VNTI Database/
  for Windows machines and
- /Library/Application Support/VNTI Database/
  for Mac OS X for Panther.

Therefore the *CLC Combined Workbench* will check if there is a default installation and will ask whether you want to use the default database directory or another directory.

Note! Make sure that the Vector NTI database directory (default or backup) contains folders like ProData and MolData. These folders are necessary when we import the data into *CLC Combined Workbench*.

In order to import all DNA/RNA, protein and oligo sequences if a default database directory is installed:

select File in the Menu Bar | Import VectorNTI Data | select Yes if you want to import the default database | confirm the information

or **select File in the Menu Bar | Import VectorNTI Data | select No to choose a database | select a database directory | Import | confirm the information**

After the import there is a new folder called **Vector NTI Data** in the **Navigation Area**. In **Vector NTI Data** you can see three folders: **DNA/RNA** containing the DNA and RNA sequences, **Protein** containing all protein sequences and **oligo** containing all oligo sequences. (See figure 7.2).

The folders and all sequences are automatically saved.

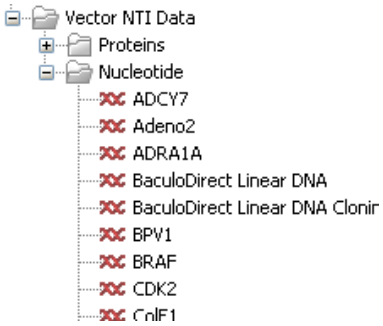

Figure 7.2: *The Vector NTI Data folder containing all imported sequences of the Vector NTI Database.*

If for some reason the import fails, an alternative approach would be to export all the files from Vector NTI and import them as described in the previous sections. You can export a selection of files as a Vector NTI archieve (ma4/pa4) which can be imported into the *CLC Combined Workbench*.

The Vector NTI import is a plug-in which is pre-installed in the Workbench. It can be uninstalled and updated using the plug-in manager (see section 1.7).

7.1.2 Export of bioinformatic data

CLC Combined Workbench can export bioinformatic data in most of the formats that can be imported. There are a few exceptions. See section 7.1.1.

To export a file:

select the element to export | Export ( ) | choose where to export to | select 'File of type' | enter name of file | Save

Note! The **Export** dialog decides which types of files you are allowed to export into, depending on what type of data you want to export. E.g. protein sequences can be exported into GenBank, Fasta, Swiss-Prot and CLC-formats.

Export of folders and multiple elements

The .zip file type can be used to export all kinds of files and is therefore especially useful in these situations:

- Export of one or more folders including all underlying elements and folders.

- If you want to export two or more elements into one file.

Export of folders is similar to export of single files. Exporting multiple files (of different formats) is done in .zip-format. This is how you export a folder:

> **select the folder to export** | **Export ( )** | **choose where to export to** | **enter name** | **Save**

You can export multiple files of the same type into formats other than ZIP (.zip). E.g. two DNA sequences can be exported in GenBank format:

> **select the two sequences by <Ctrl>-click (⌘-click on Mac) or <Shift>-click** | **Export ( )** | **choose where to export to** | **choose GenBank (.gbk) format** | **enter name the new file** | **Save**

Export of dependent objects

When exporting e.g. an alignment, *CLC Combined Workbench* can export all dependent objects. I.e. the sequences which the alignment is calculated from. This way, when sending your alignment (with the dependent objects), your colleagues can reproduce your findings with adjusted parameters, if desired.
To export with dependent files:

> **select the element in Navigation Area** | **File in Menu Bar** | **Export with dependent objects** | **enter name of of the new file** | **choose where to export to** | **Save**

The result is a folder containing the exported file with dependent objects, stored automatically in a folder on the desired location of your desk.

Export history

To export an element's history:

> **select the element in Navigation Area Export ( )** | **select History PDF(.pdf)** | **choose where to export to** | **Save**

The entire history of the element is then exported in pdf format.

The CLC format

CLC Combined Workbench keeps all bioinformatic data in the CLC format. Compared to other formats, the CLC format contains more information about the object, like its history and comments. The CLC format is also able to hold several objects of different types (e.g. an alignment, a graph and a phylogenetic tree). This means that if you are exporting your data to another CLC Workbench, you can use the CLC format to export several objects in one file, and all the objects' information is preserved.

Note! CLC files can be exported from and imported into all the different CLC Workbenches.

Backup

If you wish to secure your data from computer breakdowns, it is advisable to perform regular backups of your data. Backing up data in the *CLC Combined Workbench* is done in two ways:

- Making a backup of each of the folders represented by the locations in the **Navigation Area**.
- Selecting all locations in the **Navigation Area** and export ( ) in .zip format. The resulting file will contain all the data stored in the **Navigation Area** and can be imported into *CLC Combined Workbench* if you wish to restore from the back-up at some point.

No matter which method is used for backup, you may have to re-define the locations in the **Navigation Area** if you restore your data from a computer breakdown.

7.2 External files

In order to help you organize your research projects, *CLC Combined Workbench* lets you import all kinds of files. E.g. if you have Word, Excel or pdf-files related to your project, you can import them into the **Navigation Area** of *CLC Combined Workbench*. Importing an external file creates a copy of the file which is stored at the location you have chosen for import. The file can now be opened by double-clicking the file in the **Navigation Area**. The file is opened using the default application for this file type (e.g. Microsoft Word for .doc-files and Adobe Reader for .pdf).

External files are imported and exported in the same way as bioinformatics files (see section 7.1.1). Bioinformatics files not recognized by *CLC Combined Workbench* are also treated as external files.

7.3 Export graphics to files

CLC Combined Workbench supports export of graphics into a number of formats. This way, the visible output of your work can easily be saved and used in presentations, reports etc. The **Export Graphics** function ( ) is found in the **Toolbar**.

CLC Combined Workbench uses a WYSIWYG principle for graphics export: What You See Is What You Get. This means that you should use the options in the Side Panel to change how your data, e.g. a sequence, looks in the program. When you export it, the graphics file will look exactly the same way.

It is not possible to export graphics of elements directly from the **Navigation Area**. They must first be opened in a view in order to be exported. To export graphics of the contents of a view:

select tab of View | Graphics ( ) on Toolbar

This will display the dialog shown in figure 7.3.

7.3.1 Which part of the view to export

In this dialog you can choose to:

- **Export visible area**, or
- **Export whole view**

These options are available for all views that can be zoomed in and out. In figure 7.4 is a view of a circular sequence which is zoomed in so that you can only see a part of it.

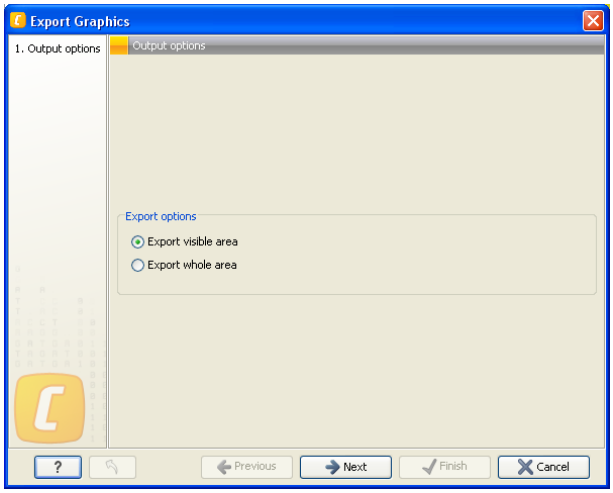

Figure 7.3: *Selecting to export whole view or to export only the visible area.*

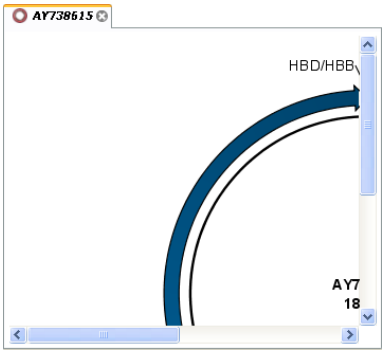

Figure 7.4: *A circular sequence as it looks on the screen.*

When selecting **Export visible area**, the exported file will only contain the part of the sequence that is *visible* in the view. The result from exporting the view from figure 7.4 and choosing **Export visible area** can be seen in figure 7.5.

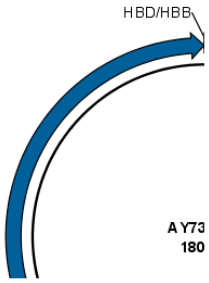

Figure 7.5: *The exported graphics file when selecting Export visible area.*

On the other hand, if you select **Export whole view**, you will get a result that looks like figure 7.6. This means that the graphics file will also include the part of the sequence which is not visible when you have zoomed in.

For 3D structures, this first step is omitted and you will always export what is shown in the view (equivalent to selecting **Export visible area**).

Click **Next** when you have chosen which part of the view to export.

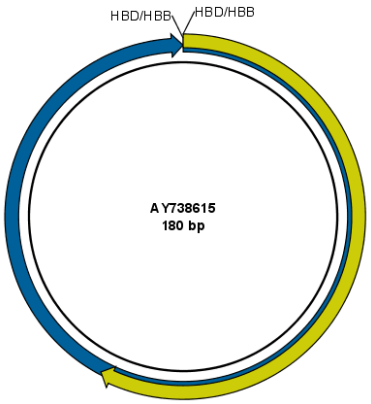

Figure 7.6: *The exported graphics file when selecting Export whole view. The whole sequence is shown, even though the view is zoomed in on a part of the sequence.*

7.3.2 Save location and file formats

In this step, you can choose name and save location for the graphics file (see figure 7.7).

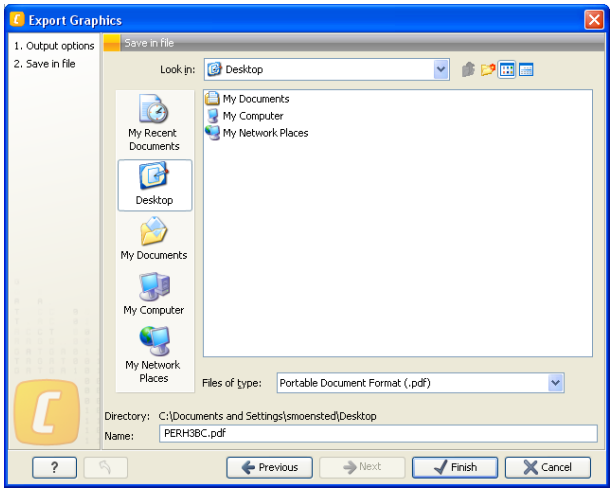

Figure 7.7: *Location and name for the graphics file.*

CLC Combined Workbench supports the following file formats for graphics export:

Format	Suffix	Type
Portable Network Graphics	.png	bitmap
JPEG	.jpg	bitmap
Tagged Image File	.tif	bitmap
PostScript	.ps	vector graphics
Encapsulated PostScript	.eps	vector graphics
Portable Document Format	.pdf	vector graphics
Scalable Vector Graphics	.svg	vector graphics

These formats can be divided into bitmap and vector graphics. The difference between these two categories is described below:

Bitmap images

In a bitmap image, each dot in the image has a specified color. This implies, that if you zoom in on the image there will not be enough dots, and if you zoom out there will be too many. In these cases the image viewer has to interpolate the colors to fit what is actually looked at. A bitmap image needs to have a high resolution if you want to zoom in. This format is a good choice for storing images without large shapes (e.g. dot plots). It is also appropriate if you don't have the need for resizing and editing the image after export.

Vector graphics

Vector graphic is a collection of shapes. Thus what is stored is e.g. information about where a line starts and ends, and the color of the line and its width. This enables a given viewer to decide how to draw the line, no matter what the zoom factor is, thereby always giving a correct image. This format is good for e.g. graphs and reports, but less usable for e.g. dot plots. If the image is to be resized or edited, vector graphics are by far the best format to store graphics. If you open a vector graphics file in an application like e.g. Adobe Illustrator, you will be able to manipulate the image in great detail.

Graphics files can also be imported into the **Navigation Area**. However, no kinds of graphics files can be displayed in *CLC Combined Workbench*. See section 7.2 for more about importing external files into *CLC Combined Workbench*.

7.3.3 Graphics export parameters

When you have specified the name and location to save the graphics file, you can either click **Next** or **Finish**. Clicking **Next** allows you to set further parameters for the graphics export, whereas clicking **Finish** will export using the parameters that you have set last time you made a graphics export in that file format (if it is the first time, it will use default parameters).

Parameters for bitmap formats

For bitmap files, clicking **Next** will display the dialog shown in figure 7.8.

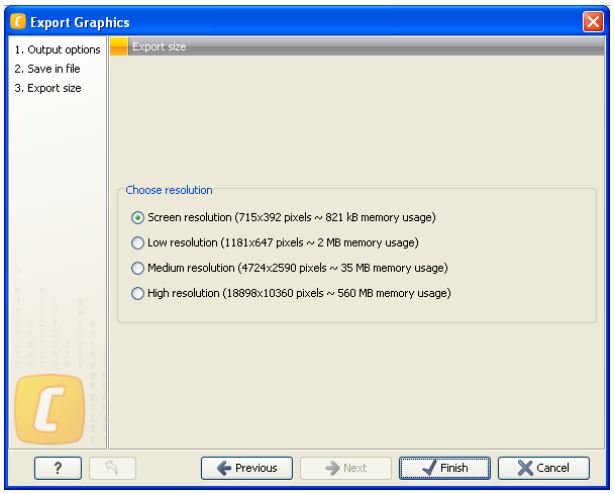

Figure 7.8: *Parameters for bitmap formats: size of the graphics file.*

You can adjust the size (the resolution) of the file to four standard sizes:

- Screen resolution
- Low resolution
- Medium resolution
- High resolution

The actual size in pixels is displayed in parentheses. An estimate of the memory usage for exporting the file is also shown. If the image is to be used on computer screens only, a low resolution is sufficient. If the image is going to be used on printed material, a higher resolution is necessary to produce a good result.

Parameters for vector formats

For pdf format, clicking **Next** will display the dialog shown in figure 7.9 (this is only the case if the graphics is using more than one page).

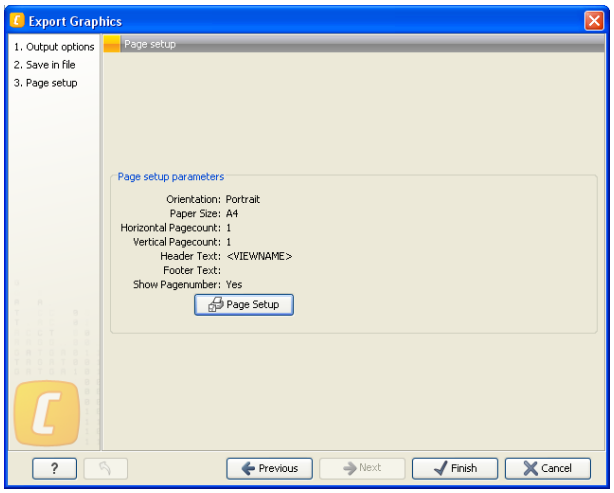

Figure 7.9: *Page setup parameters for vector formats.*

The settings for the page setup are shown, and clicking the **Page Setup** button will display a dialog where these settings can ba adjusted. This dialog is described in section 6.2.

The page setup is only available if you have selected to export the whole view - if you have chosen to export the visible area only, the graphics file will be on one page with no headers or footers.

7.3.4 Exporting protein reports

It is possible to export a protein report using the normal **Export** function ( ) which will generate a pdf file with a table of contents:

Click the report in the Navigation Area | Export ( ) in the Toolbar | select pdf

You can also choose to export a protein report using the **Export graphics** function ( ), but in this way you will not get the table of contents.

7.4 Copy/paste view output

The content of tables, e.g. in reports, folder lists, and sequence lists can be copy/pasted into different programs, where it can be edited. *CLC Combined Workbench* pastes the data in tabulator separated format which is useful if you use programs like Microsoft Word and Excel. There is a huge number of programs in which the copy/paste can be applied. For simplicity, we include one example of the copy/paste function from a **Folder Content** view to Microsoft Excel.

First step is to select the desired elements in the view:

click a line in the Folder Content view | **hold Shift-button** | **press arrow down/up key**

See figure 7.10.

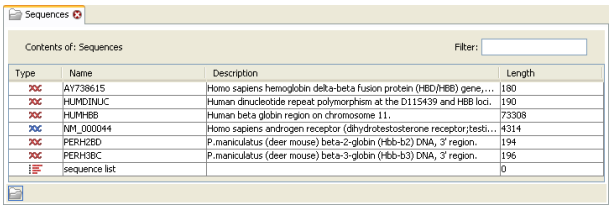

Figure 7.10: *Selected elements in a Folder Content view.*

When the elements are selected, do the following to copy the selected elements:

right-click one of the selected elements | **Edit** | **Copy (** **)**

Then:

right-click in the cell A1 | **Paste (** **)**

The outcome might appear unorganized, but with a few operations the structure of the view in *CLC Combined Workbench* can be produced. (Except the icons which are replaced by file references in Excel.)

Chapter 8

History log

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CLC Combined Workbench keeps a log of all operations you make in the program. If e.g. you rename a sequence, align sequences, create a phylogenetic tree or translate a sequence, you can always go back and check what you have done. In this way, you are able to document and reproduce previous operations.

This can be useful in several situations: It can be used for documentation purposes, where you can specify exactly how your data has been created and modified. It can also be useful if you return to a project after some time and want to refresh your memory on how the data was created. Also, if you have performed an analysis and you want to reproduce the analysis on another element, you can check the history of the analysis which will give you all parameters you set.

This chapter will describe how to use the **History** functionality of *CLC Combined Workbench*.

8.1 Element history

You can view the history of all elements in the **Navigation Area** except files that are opened in other programs (e.g. Word and pdf-files). The history starts when the element appears for the first time in *CLC Combined Workbench*. To view the history of an element:

Select the element in the Navigation Area | **Show ( ) in the Toolbar** | **History ( )**

or **If the element is already open** | **History ( ) at the bottom left part of the view**

This opens a view that looks like the one in figure 8.1.

When opening an element's history is opened, the newest change is submitted in the top of the view. The following information is available:

- **Title**. The action that the user performed.
- **Date and time**. Date and time for the operation. The date and time are displayed according

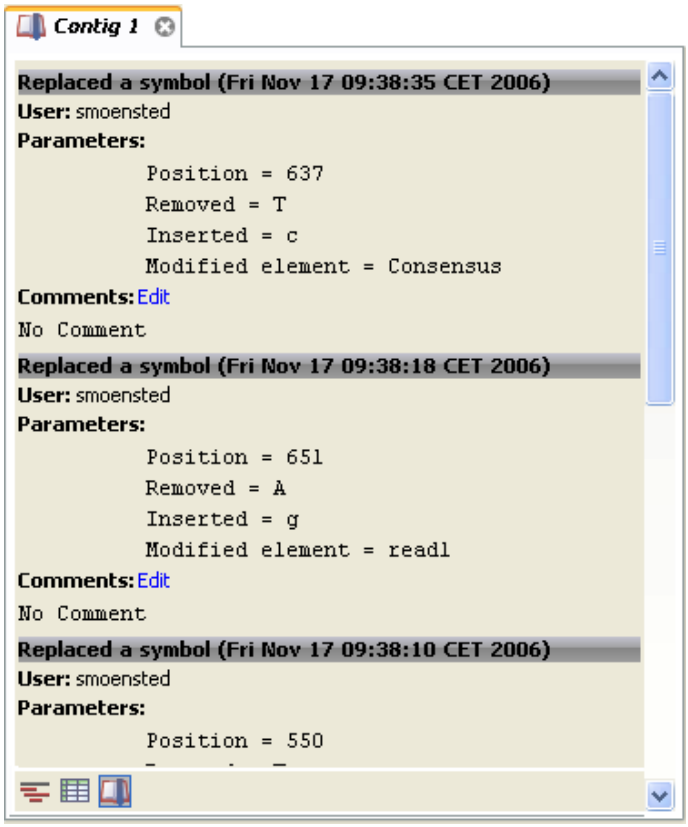

Figure 8.1: *An element's history.*

to your locale settings (see section 5.1).

- **User**. The user who performed the operation. If you import some data created by another person in a CLC Workbench, that persons name will be shown.
- **Parameters**. Details about the action performed. This could be the parameters that was chosen for an analysis.
- **Origins from**. This information is usually shown at the bottom of an element's history. Here, you can see which elements the current element origins from. If you have e.g. created an alignment of three sequences, the three sequences are shown here. Clicking the element selects it in the **Navigation Area**, and clicking the 'history' link opens the element's own history.
- **Comments**. By clicking **Edit** you can enter your own comments regarding this entry in the history. These comments are saved.

8.1.1 Sharing data with history

The history of an element is attached to that element, which means that exporting an element in CLC format (*.clc) will export the history too. In this way, you can share folders and files with others while preserving the history. If an element's history includes source elements (i.e. if there are elements listed in 'Origins from'), they must also be exported in order to see the full history. Otherwise, the history will have entries named "Element deleted". An easy way to export an

element with all its source elements is to use the **Export Dependent Objects** function described in section 7.1.2.

The history view can be printed. To do so, click the **Print** icon (). The history can also be exported as a pdf file:

> **Select the element in the Navigation Area | Export () | in "File of type" choose History PDF | Save**

Chapter 9

Handling of results

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Most of the analyses in the **Toolbox** are able to perform the same analysis on several elements in one batch. This means that analyzing large amounts of data is very easily accomplished. If you e.g. wish to translate a large number of DNA sequence to protein, you can just select the DNA sequences and set the parameters for the translation once. Each DNA sequence will then be treated individually as if you performed the translation on each of them. The process will run in the background and you will be able to work on other projects at the same time.

9.1 How to handle results of analyses

All the analyses in the **Toolbox** are performed in a step-by-step procedure. First, you select elements for analyses, and then there are a number of steps where you can specify parameters (some of the analyses have no parameters, e.g. when translating DNA to RNA). The final step concerns the handling of the results of the analysis, and it is almost identical for all the analyses so we explain it in this section in general.

In this step, shown in figure 9.1, you have two options:

- **Open.** This will open the result of the analysis in a view. This is the default setting.
- **Save.** This means that the result will not be opened but saved to a folder in the **Navigation Area**. If you select this option, click **Next** and you will see one more step where you can specify where to save the results (see figure 9.2). In this step, you also have the option of creating a new folder or adding a location by clicking the buttons ( )/ ( ) at the top of the dialog.

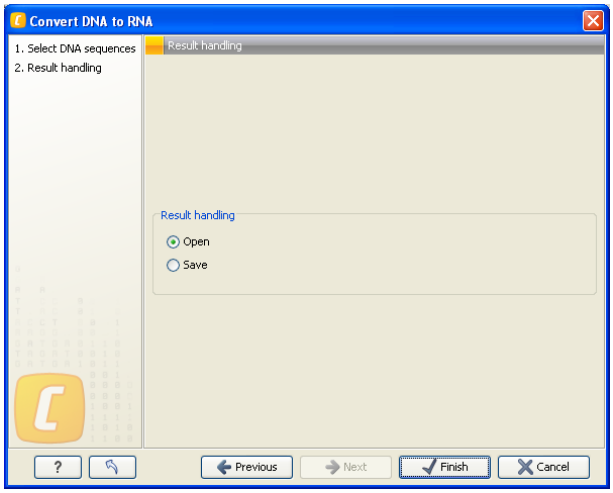

Figure 9.1: *The last step of the analyses exemplified by Translate DNA to RNA.*

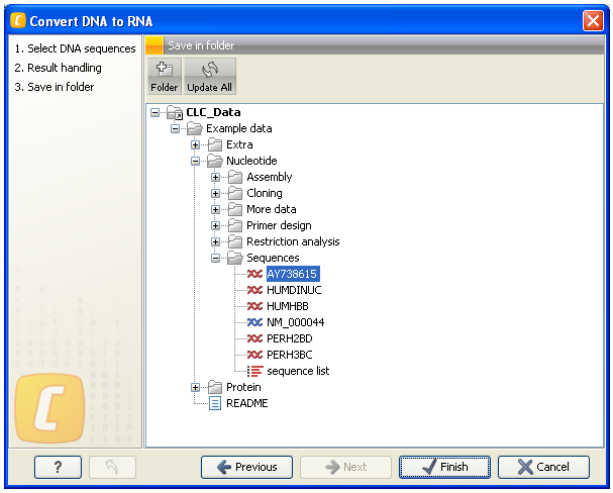

Figure 9.2: *Specify a folder for the results of the analysis.*

9.1.1 Table outputs

Some analyses also generate a table with results, and for these analyses the last step looks like figure 9.3.

In addition to the **Open** and **Save** options you can also choose whether the result of the analysis should be added as annotations on the sequence or shown on a table. If both options are selected, you will be able to click the results in the table and the corresponding region on the sequence will be selected.

If you choose to add annotations to the sequence, they can be removed afterwards by clicking **Undo** ( ) in the **Toolbar**.

9.1.2 Batch log

For some analyses, there is an extra option in the final step to create a log of the batch process (see e.g. figure 9.3). This log will be created in the beginning of the process and continually updated with information about the results. See an example of a log in figure 9.4. In this example, the log displays information about how many open reading frames were found.

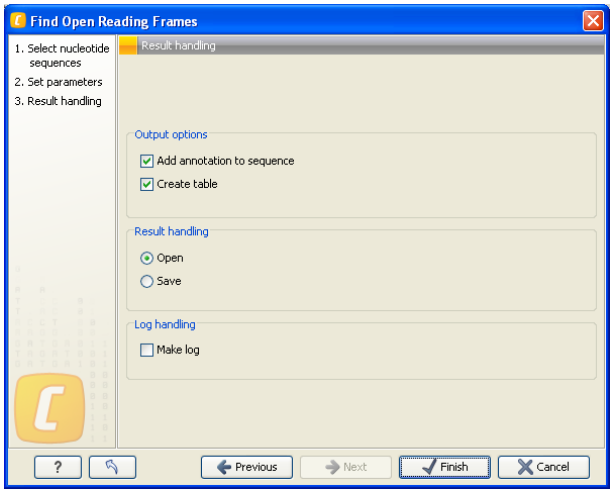

Figure 9.3: *Analyses which also generate tables.*

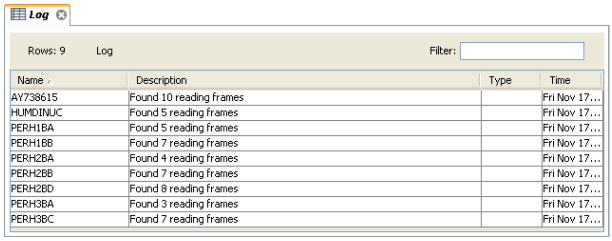

Figure 9.4: *An example of a batch log when finding open reading frames.*

The log will either be saved with the results of the analysis or opened in a view with the results, depending on how you chose to handle the results.

Part III

Bioinformatics

Chapter 10

Viewing and editing sequences

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CLC Combined Workbench offers five different ways of viewing and editing single sequences as described in the first five sections of this chapter. Furthermore, this chapter also explains how to create a new sequence and how to assemble several sequences in a sequence list.

10.1 View sequence

When you double-click a sequence in the **Navigation Area**, the sequence will open automatically, and you will see the nucleotides or amino acids. The zoom options described in section 3.3 allow

you to e.g. zoom out in order to see more of the sequence in one view. There are a number of options for viewing and editing the sequence which are all described in this section. All the options described in this section also apply to alignments (further described in section 20.2).

10.1.1 Sequence settings in Side Panel

Each view of a sequence has a **Side Panel** located at the right side of the view. When you make changes in the **Side Panel** the view of the sequence is instantly updated. To show or hide the **Side Panel**:

select the View | Ctrl + U

or **Click the ( ) at the top right corner of the Side Panel to hide | Click the gray Side Panel button to the right to show**

Below, each group of settings will be explained. Some of the preferences are not the same for nucleotide and protein sequences, but the differences will be explained for each group of settings.

Note! When you make changes to the settings in the **Side Panel**, they are not automatically saved when you save the sequence. Click **Save/restore Settings** ( ) to save the settings (see section 5.5 for more information).

Sequence Layout

These preferences determine the overall layout of the sequence:

- **Spacing.** Inserts a space at a specified interval:
  - **No spacing.** The sequence is shown with no spaces.
  - **Every 10 residues.** There is a space every 10 residues, starting from the beginning of the sequence.
  - **Every 3 residues, frame 1.** There is a space every 3 residues, corresponding to the reading frame starting at the first residue.
  - **Every 3 residues, frame 2.** There is a space every 3 residues, corresponding to the reading frame starting at the second residue.
  - **Every 3 residues, frame 3.** There is a space every 3 residues, corresponding to the reading frame starting at the third residue.
- **Wrap sequences.** Shows the sequence on more than one line.
  - **No wrap.** The sequence is displayed on one line.
  - **Auto wrap.** Wraps the sequence to fit the width of the view, not matter if it is zoomed in our out (displays minimum 10 nucleotides on each line).
  - **Fixed wrap.** Makes it possible to specify when the sequence should be wrapped. In the text field below, you can choose the number of residues to display on each line.
- **Double stranded.** Shows both strands of a sequence (only applies to DNA sequences).

- **Numbers on sequences.** Shows residue positions along the sequence. The starting point can be changed by setting the number in the field below. If you set it to e.g. 101, the first residue will have the position of -100. This can also be done by right-clicking an annotation and choosing **Set Numbers Relative to This Annotation**.
- **Numbers on plus strand.** Whether to set the numbers relative to the positive or the negative strand in a nucleotide sequence (only applies to DNA sequences).
- **Follow selection.** When viewing the same sequence in two separate views, "Follow selection" will automatically scroll the view in order to follow a selection made in the other view.
- **Lock numbers.** When you scroll vertically, the position numbers remain visible. (Only possible when the sequence is not wrapped.)
- **Lock labels.** When you scroll horizontally, the label of the sequence remains visible.
- **Sequence label.** Defines the label to the left of the sequence.
  - Name (this is the default information to be shown).
  - Accession (sequences downloaded from databases like GenBank have an accession number).
  - Latin name.
  - Latin name (accession).
  - Common name.
  - Common name (accession).

Annotation Layout and Annotation Types

See section 10.3.1.

Restriction sites

See section 10.1.2.

Residue coloring

These preferences make it possible to color both the residue letter and set a background color for the residue.

- **Non-standard residues.** For nucleotide sequences this will color the residues that are not C, G, A, T or U. For amino acids only B, Z, and X are colored as non-standard residues.
  - **Foreground color.** Sets the color of the letter. Click the color box to change the color.
  - **Background color.** Sets the background color of the residues. Click the color box to change the color.
- **Rasmol colors.** Colors the residues according to the Rasmol color scheme.
  See http://www.openrasmol.org/doc/rasmol.html

  - **Foreground color.** Sets the color of the letter. Click the color box to change the color.
  - **Background color.** Sets the background color of the residues. Click the color box to change the color.

- **Polarity colors (only protein).** Colors the residues according to the polarity of amino acids.
  - **Foreground color.** Sets the color of the letter. Click the color box to change the color.
  - **Background color.** Sets the background color of the residues. Click the color box to change the color.

- **Trace colors (only DNA).** Colors the residues according to the color conventions of chromatogram traces: A=green, C=blue, G=black, and T=red.
  - **Foreground color.** Sets the color of the letter.
  - **Background color.** Sets the background color of the residues.

Nucleotide info

These preferences only apply to nucleotide sequences.

- **Translation.** Displays a translation into protein just below the nucleotide sequence. Depending on the zoom level, the amino acids are displayed with three letters or one letter.
  - **Frame.** Determines where to start the translation.
    - **+1 to -1.** Select one of the six reading frames.
    - **Selection.** This option will only take effect when you make a selection on the sequence. The translation will start from the first nucleotide selected. Making a new selection will automatically display the corresponding translation. Read more about selecting in section 10.1.3.
    - **All.** Select all reading frames at once. The translations will be displayed on top of each other.
  - **Table.** The translation table to use in the translation. For more about translation tables, see section 15.4.
  - **Only AUG start codons.** For most genetic codes, a number of codons can be start codons. Selecting this option only colors the AUG codons green.
  - **Single letter codes.** Choose to represent the amino acids with a single letter instead of three letters.

- **Trace data.** See section 18.1.

- **G/C content.** Calculates the G/C content of a part of the sequence and shows it as a gradient of colors or as a graph below the sequence.
  - **Window length.** Determines the length of the part of the sequence to calculate. A window length of 9 will calculate the G/C content for the nucleotide in question plus the 4 nucleotides to the left and the 4 nucleotides to the right. A narrow window will focus on small fluctuations in the G/C content level, whereas a wider window will show fluctuations between larger parts of the sequence.

- **Foreground color.** Colors the letter using a gradient, where the left side color is used for low levels of G/C content and the right side color is used for high levels of G/C content. The sliders just above the gradient color box can be dragged to highlight relevant levels of G/C content. The colors can be changed by clicking the box. This will show a list of gradients to choose from.
- **Background color.** Sets a background color of the residues using a gradient in the same way as described above.
- **Graph.** The G/C content level is displayed on a graph.
  - **Height.** Specifies the height of the graph.
  - **Type.** The graph can be displayed as Line plot, Bar plot or as a Color bar.
  - **Color box.** For Line and Bar plots, the color of the plot can be set by clicking the color box. For Colors, the color box is replaced by a gradient color box as described under Foreground color.

Protein info

These preferences only apply to proteins. The first nine items are different hydrophobicity scales and are described in section 16.5.2.

- **Kyte-Doolittle.** The Kyte-Doolittle scale is widely used for detecting hydrophobic regions in proteins. Regions with a positive value are hydrophobic. This scale can be used for identifying both surface-exposed regions as well as transmembrane regions, depending on the window size used. Short window sizes of 5-7 generally work well for predicting putative surface-exposed regions. Large window sizes of 19-21 are well suited for finding transmembrane domains if the values calculated are above 1.6 [Kyte and Doolittle, 1982]. These values should be used as a rule of thumb and deviations from the rule may occur.
- **Cornette.** Cornette *et al.* computed an optimal hydrophobicity scale based on 28 published scales [Cornette et al., 1987]. This optimized scale is also suitable for prediction of alpha-helices in proteins.
- **Engelman.** The Engelman hydrophobicity scale, also known as the GES-scale, is another scale which can be used for prediction of protein hydrophobicity [Engelman et al., 1986]. As the Kyte-Doolittle scale, this scale is useful for predicting transmembrane regions in proteins.
- **Eisenberg.** The Eisenberg scale is a normalized consensus hydrophobicity scale which shares many features with the other hydrophobicity scales [Eisenberg et al., 1984].
- **Rose.** The hydrophobicity scale by Rose *et al.* is correlated to the average area of buried amino acids in globular proteins [Rose et al., 1985]. This results in a scale which is not showing the helices of a protein, but rather the surface accessibility.
- **Janin.** This scale also provides information about the accessible and buried amino acid residues of globular proteins [Janin, 1979].
- **Hopp-Woods.** Hopp and Woods developed their hydrophobicity scale for identification of potentially antigenic sites in proteins. This scale is basically a hydrophilic index where apolar residues have been assigned negative values. Antigenic sites are likely to be predicted when using a window size of 7 [Hopp and Woods, 1983].

- **Welling.** [Welling et al., 1985] Welling et al. used information on the relative occurrence of amino acids in antigenic regions to make a scale which is useful for prediction of antigenic regions. This method is better than the Hopp-Woods scale of hydrophobicity which is also used to identify antigenic regions.
- **Kolaskar-Tongaonkar.** A semi-empirical method for prediction of antigenic regions has been developed [Kolaskar and Tongaonkar, 1990]. This method also includes information of surface accessibility and flexibility and at the time of publication the method was able to predict antigenic determinants with an accuracy of 75%.
- **Surface Probability.** Display of surface probability based on the algorithm by Emini et al., 1985. This algorithm has been used to identify antigenic determinants on the surface of proteins.
- **Chain Flexibility.** Display of backbone chain flexibility based on the algorithm by Karplus and Schulz, 1985. It is known that chain flexibility is an indication of a putative antigenic determinant.

Find

The Find function can also be invoked by pressing Ctrl + Shift + F (⌘ + Shift + F on Mac).

The Find function can be used for searching the sequence. Clicking the find button will search for the first occurrence of the search term. Clicking the find button again will find the next occurrence and so on. If the search string is found, the corresponding part of the sequence will be selected.

- **Search term.** Enter the text to search for. The search function does not discriminate between lower and upper case characters.
- **Sequence search.** Search the nucleotides or amino acids. For amino acids, the single letter abbreviations should be used for searching. The sequence search also has a set of advanced search parameters:
  - Include negative strand. This will search on the negative strand as well.
  - Treat ambiguous characters as wildcards in search term. If you search for e.g. ATN, you will find both ATG and ATC. If you wish to find literally exact matches for ATN (i.e. only find ATN - not ATG), this option should not be selected.
  - Treat ambiguous characters as wildcards in sequence. If you search for e.g. ATG, you will find both ATG and ATN. If you have large regions of Ns, this option should not be selected.
- **Annotation search.** Searches the annotations on the sequence. The search is performed both on the labels of the annotations, but also on the text appearing in the tooltip that you see when you keep the mouse cursor fixed. If the search term is found, the part of the sequence corresponding to the matching annotation is selected. Below this option you can choose to search for translations as well. Sequences annotated with coding regions often have the translation specified which can lead to undesired results.
- **Position search.** Finds a specific position on the sequence. In order to find an interval, e.g. from position 500 to 570, enter "500..570" in the search field. This will make a selection from position 500 to 570 (both included). Notice the two periods (..) between the start an end number .

- **Include negative strand.** When searching the sequence for nucleotides or amino acids, you can search on both strands.

This concludes the description of the **View Preferences**. Next, the options for selecting and editing sequences are described.

Text format

These preferences allow you to adjust the format of all the text in the view (both residue letters, sequence name and translations if they are shown).

- **Text size.** Five different sizes.
- **Font.** Shows a list of Fonts available on your computer.
- **Bold residues.** Makes the residues bold.

10.1.2 Restriction sites in the Side Panel

As shown in figure 19.12 you can display restriction sites as colored triangles and lines on the sequence. The **Restriction sites** group in the side panel shows a list of enzymes, represented by different colors corresponding to the colors of the triangles on the sequence. By selecting or deselecting the enzymes in the list, you can specify which enzymes' restriction sites should be displayed.

The color of the restriction enzyme can be changed by clicking the colored box next to the enzyme's name. The name of the enzyme can also be shown next to the restriction site by selecting **Show name flags** above the list of restriction enzymes.

Sort enzymes

Just above the list of enzymes there are three buttons to be used for sorting the list (see figure 19.13):

- **Sort enzymes alphabetically** (). Clicking this button will sort the list of enzymes alphabetically.
- **Sort enzymes by number of restriction sites** ( ). This will divide the enzymes into four groups:
  - Non-cutters.
  - Single cutters.
  - Double cutters.
  - Multiple cutters.

  There is a checkbox for each group which can be used to hide / show all the enzymes in a group.
-

Figure 10.1: *Showing restriction sites of ten restriction enzymes.*

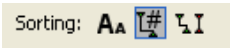

Figure 10.2: *Buttons to sort restriction enzymes.*

- **Sort enzymes by overhang** ( ). This will divide the enzymes into three groups:
  - Blunt. Enzymes cutting both strands at the same position.
  - 3'. Enzymes producing an overhang at the 3' end.
  - 5'. Enzymes producing an overhang at the 5' end.

  There is a checkbox for each group which can be used to hide / show all the enzymes in a group.

Manage enzymes

The list of restriction enzymes contains per default 20 of the most popular enzymes, but you can easily modify this list and add more enzymes by clicking the fManage enzymes button. This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.14.

At the top, you can choose to **Use existing enzyme list**. Clicking this option lets you select an enzyme list which is stored in the **Navigation Area**. See section 19.4 for more about creating and modifying enzyme lists.

Below there are two panels:

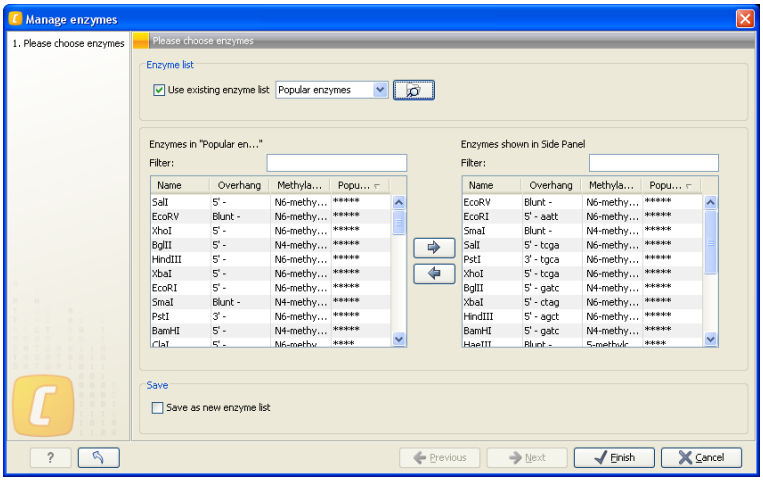

Figure 10.3: *Adding or removing enzymes from the Side Panel.*

- To the **left**, you see all the enzymes that are in the list select above. If you have not chosen to use an existing enzyme list, this panel shows all the enzymes available [1].
- To the **right**, there is a list of the enzymes that will be used.

Select enzymes in the left side panel and add them to the right panel by double-clicking or clicking the **Add** button (➡). If you e.g. wish to use EcoRV and BamHI, select these two enzymes and add them to the right side panel.

If you wish to use all the enzymes in the list:

Click in the panel to the left | press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac) | Add (➡)

The enzymes can be sorted by clicking the column headings, i.e. Name, Overhang, Methylation or Popularity. This is particularly useful if you wish to use enzymes which produce e.g. a 3' overhang. In this case, you can sort the list by clicking the Overhang column heading, and all the enzymes producing 3' overhangs will be listed together for easy selection.

When looking for a specific enzyme, it is easier to use the Filter. If you wish to find e.g. HindIII sites, simply type HindIII into the filter, and the list of enzymes will shrink automatically to only include the HindIII enzyme. This can also be used to only show enzymes producing e.g. a 3' overhang as shown in figure 19.33.

If you need more detailed information and filtering of the enzymes, either place your mouse cursor on an enzyme for one second to display additional information (see figure 19.34), or use the view of enzyme lists (see 19.4).

At the bottom of the dialog, you can select to save this list of enzymes as a new file. In this way, you can save the selection of enzymes for later use.

When you click **Finish**, the enzymes are added to the Side Panel and the cut sites are shown on the sequence.

If you have specified a set of enzymes which you always use, it will probably be a good idea to save the settings in the Side Panel (see section 3.2.7) for future use.

[1] The *CLC Combined Workbench* comes with a standard set of enzymes based on http://www.rebase.org

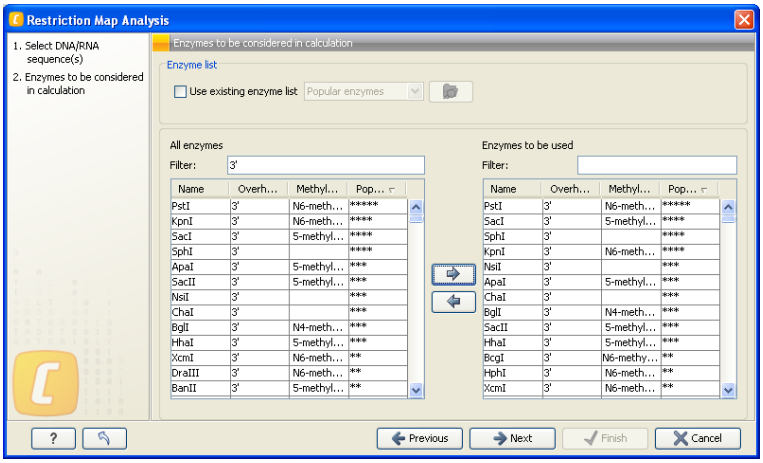

Figure 10.4: *Selecting enzymes.*

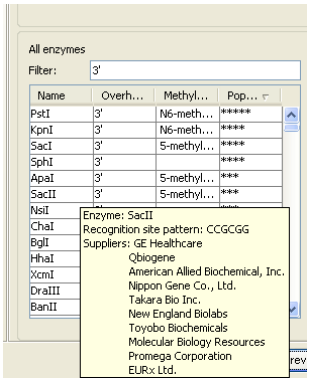

Figure 10.5: *Showing additional information about an enzyme like recognition sequence or a list of commercial vendors.*

Show enzymes cutting inside/outside selection

Section 19.2.1 describes how to add more enzymes to the list in the Side Panel based on the name of the enzyme, overhang, methylation sensitivity etc. However, you will often find yourself in a situation where you need a more sophisticated and explorative approach.

An illustrative example: you have a selection on a sequence, and you wish to find enzymes cutting within the selection, but not outside. This problem often arises during design of cloning experiments. In this case, you do not know the name of the enzyme, so you want the Workbench to find the enzymes for you:

right-click the selection | Show Enzymes Cutting Inside/Outside Selection ( )

This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.17 where you can specify which enzymes should initially be considered.

At the top, you can choose to **Use existing enzyme list**. Clicking this option lets you select an enzyme list which is stored in the **Navigation Area**. See section 19.4 for more about creating and modifying enzyme lists.

Below there are two panels:

- To the **left**, you see all the enzymes that are in the list select above. If you have not chosen

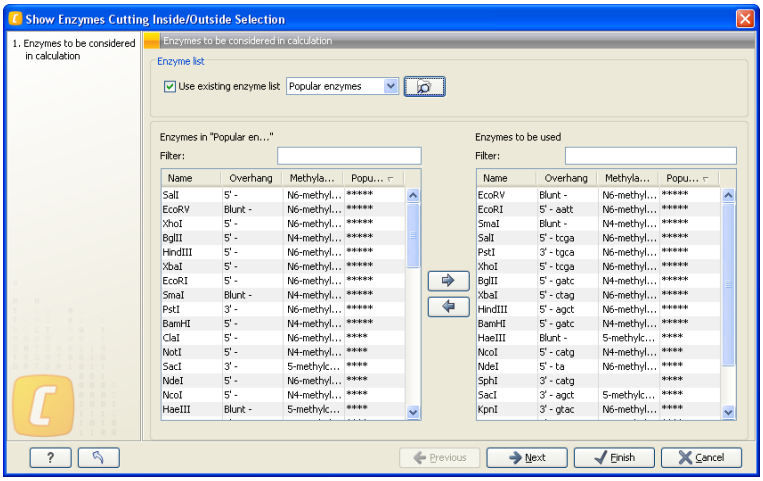

Figure 10.6: *Choosing enzymes to be considered.*

to use an existing enzyme list, this panel shows all the enzymes available [2].

- To the **right**, there is a list of the enzymes that will be used.

Select enzymes in the left side panel and add them to the right panel by double-clicking or clicking the **Add** button (➡). If you e.g. wish to use EcoRV and BamHI, select these two enzymes and add them to the right side panel.

If you wish to use all the enzymes in the list:

Click in the panel to the left | press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac) | Add (➡)

The enzymes can be sorted by clicking the column headings, i.e. Name, Overhang, Methylation or Popularity. This is particularly useful if you wish to use enzymes which produce e.g. a 3' overhang. In this case, you can sort the list by clicking the Overhang column heading, and all the enzymes producing 3' overhangs will be listed together for easy selection.

When looking for a specific enzyme, it is easier to use the Filter. If you wish to find e.g. HindIII sites, simply type HindIII into the filter, and the list of enzymes will shrink automatically to only include the HindIII enzyme. This can also be used to only show enzymes producing e.g. a 3' overhang as shown in figure 19.33.

If you need more detailed information and filtering of the enzymes, either place your mouse cursor on an enzyme for one second to display additional information (see figure 19.34), or use the view of enzyme lists (see 19.4).

Clicking **Next** will show the dialog in figure 19.20.

At the top of the dialog, you see the selected region, and below are two panels:

- **Inside selection**. Specify how many times you wish the enzyme to cut inside the selection. In the example described above, "One cut site (1)" should be selected to only show enzymes cutting once in the selection.
- **Outside selection**. Specify how many times you wish the enzyme to cut outside the selection (i.e. the rest of the sequence). In the example above, "No cut sites (0)" should

[2] The *CLC Combined Workbench* comes with a standard set of enzymes based on http://www.rebase.org

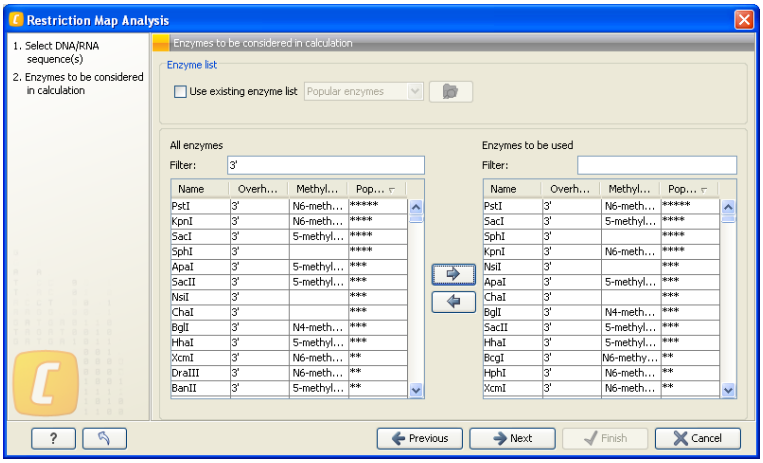

Figure 10.7: *Selecting enzymes.*

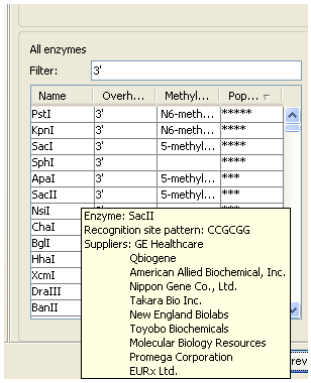

Figure 10.8: *Showing additional information about an enzyme like recognition sequence or a list of commercial vendors.*

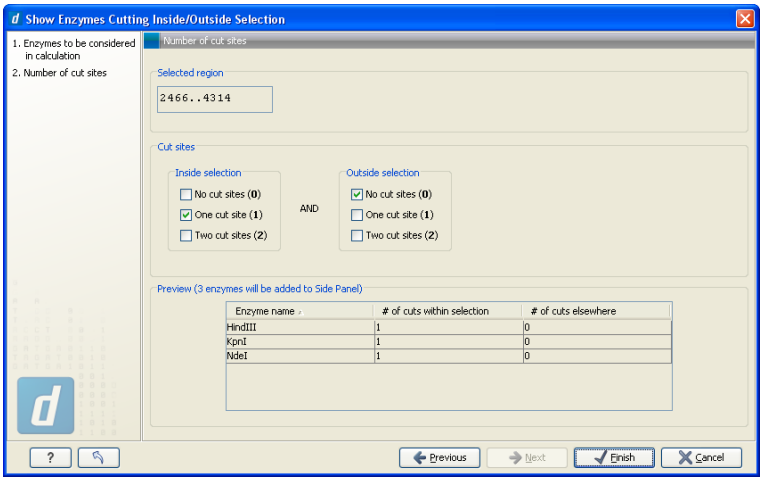

Figure 10.9: *Deciding number of cut sites inside and outside the selection.*

be selected.

These panels offer a lot of flexibility for combining number of cut sites inside and outside the selection, respectively. To give a hint of how many enzymes will be added based on the combination of cut sites, the preview panel at the bottom lists the enzymes which will be added when you click **Finish**. Note that this list is dynamically updated when you change the number of cut sites.

If you have selected more than one region on the sequence (using Ctrl or ⌘), they will be treated as individual regions. This means that the criteria for cut sites apply to each region.

Show enzymes with compatible ends

Besides what is described above, there is a third way of adding enzymes to the Side Panel and thereby displaying them on the sequence. It is based on the overhang produced by cutting with an enzyme and will find enzymes producing a compatible overhang:

right-click the restriction site | Show Enzymes with Compatible Ends ( )

This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.21.

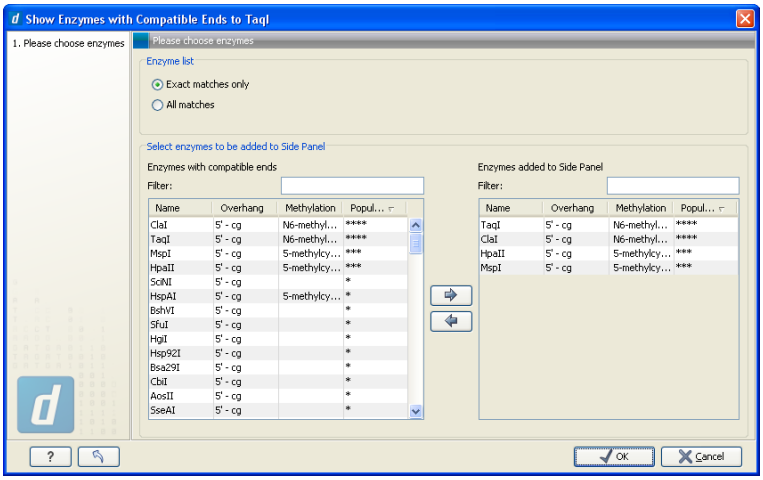

Figure 10.10: *Enzymes with compatible ends.*

At the top you can choose whether the enzymes considered should have an exact match or not. Since a number of restriction enzymes have ambiguous cut patterns, there will be variations in the resulting overhangs. Choosing **All matches**, you cannot be 100% sure that the overhang will match, and you will need to inspect the sequence further afterwards.

We advice trying **Exact match** first, and use **All matches** as an alternative if a satisfactory result cannot be achieved.

At the bottom of the dialog, the list of enzymes producing compatible overhangs is shown. Use the arrows to add enzymes which will be displayed on the sequence which you press **Finish**.

When you have added the relevant enzymes, click **Finish**, and the enzymes will be added to the Side Panel and their cut sites displayed on the sequence.

10.1.3 Selecting parts of the sequence

You can select parts of a sequence:

Click Selection ( ) in Toolbar | Press and hold down the mouse button on the sequence where you want the selection to start | move the mouse to the end of the selection while holding the button | release the mouse button

Alternatively, you can search for a specific interval using the find function described above.

If you have made a selection and wish to adjust it:

drag the edge of the selection (you can see the mouse cursor change to a horizontal arrow

or **press and hold the Shift key while using the right and left arrow keys to adjust the right side of the selection.**

If you wish to select the entire sequence:

double-click the sequence name to the left

Selecting several parts at the same time (multiselect)

You can select several parts of sequence by holding down the **Ctrl** button while making selections. Holding down the **Shift** button lets you extend or reduce an existing selection to the position you clicked.

To select a part of a sequence covered by an annotation:

right-click the annotation | **Select annotation**

or **double-click the annotation**

To select a fragment between two restriction sites that are shown on the sequence:

double-click the sequence between the two restriction sites

(Read more about restriction sites in section 10.1.2.)

Open a selection in a new view

A selection can be opened in a new view and saved as a new sequence:

right-click the selection | **Open selection in New View (** **)**

This opens the annotated part of the sequence in a new view. The new sequence can be saved by dragging the tab of the sequence view into the **Navigation Area**.

The process described above is also the way to manually translate coding parts of sequences (CDS) into protein. You simply translate the new sequence into protein. This is done by:

right-click the tab of the new sequence | **Toolbox** | **Nucleotide Analyses (** **)** | **Translate to Protein (** **)**

A selection can also be copied to the clipboard and pasted into another program:

make a selection | **Ctrl + C (⌘ + C on Mac)**

Note! The annotations covering the selection will not be copied.

A selection of a sequence can be edited as described in the following section.

10.1.4 Editing the sequence

When you make a selection, it can be edited by:

right-click the selection | **Edit Selection (** **)**

A dialog appears displaying the sequence. You can add, remove or change the text and click

OK. The original selected part of the sequence is now replaced by the sequence entered in the dialog. This dialog also allows you to paste text into the sequence using Ctrl + V (⌘ + V on Mac).

If you delete the text in the dialog and press **OK**, the selected text on the sequence will also be deleted. Another way to delete a part of the sequence is to:

right-click the selection | Delete Selection ( )

If you wish to only correct only one residue, this is possible by simply making the selection only cover one residue and then type the new residue. Another way to edit the sequence is by inserting a restriction site. See section 19.1.6.

10.1.5 Sequence region types

The various annotations on sequences cover parts of the sequence. Some cover an interval, some cover intervals with unknown endpoints, some cover more than one interval etc. In the following, all of these will be referred to as *regions*. Regions are generally illustrated by markings (often arrows) on the sequences. An arrow pointing to the right indicates that the corresponding region is located on the positive strand of the sequence. Figure 10.11 is an example of three regions with separate colors.

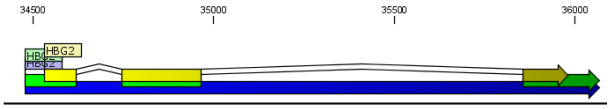

Figure 10.11: *Three regions on a human beta globin DNA sequence (HUMHBB).*

Figure 10.12 shows an artificial sequence with all the different kinds of regions.

10.2 Circular DNA

A sequence can be shown as a circular molecule:

select a sequence in the Navigation Area | Show in the Toolbar | As Circular ( )

or **If the sequence is already open | Click Show As Circular ( ) at the lower left part of the view**

This will open a view of the molecule similar to the one in figure 10.13.

This view of the sequence shares some of the properties of the linear view of sequences as described in section 10.1, but there are some differences. The similarities and differences are listed below:

- **Similarities**:
  - The editing options.
  - Options for adding, editing and removing annotations.
  - **Restriction Sites**, **Annotation Types**, **Find** and **Text Format** preferences groups.
- **Differences**:
  - In the **Sequence Layout** preferences, only the following options are available in the circular view: **Numbers on plus strand**, **Numbers on sequence** and **Sequence label**.

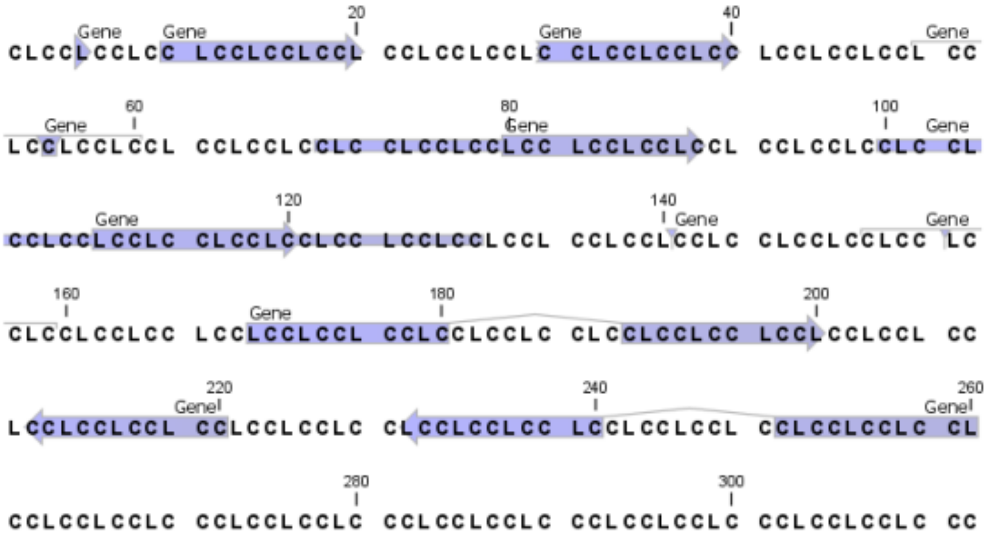

Figure 10.12: *Region #1: A single residue, Region #2: A range of residues including both endpoints, Region #3: A range of residues starting somewhere before 30 and continuing up to and including 40, Region #4: A single residue somewhere between 50 and 60 inclusive, Region #5: A range of residues beginning somewhere between 70 and 80 inclusive and ending at 90 inclusive, Region #6: A range of residues beginning somewhere between 100 and 110 inclusive and ending somewhere between 120 and 130 inclusive, Region #7: A site between residues 140 and 141, Region #8: A site between two residues somewhere between 150 and 160 inclusive, Region #9: A region that covers ranges from 170 to 180 inclusive and 190 to 200 inclusive, Region #10: A region on negative strand that covers ranges from 210 to 220 inclusive, Region #11: A region on negative strand that covers ranges from 230 to 240 inclusive and 250 to 260 inclusive.*

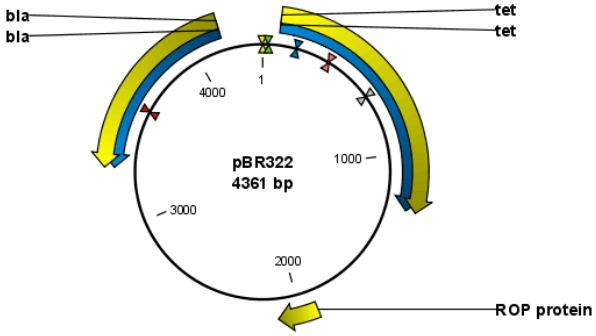

Figure 10.13: *A molecule shown in a circular view.*

- You cannot zoom in to see the residues in the circular molecule. If you wish to see these details, split the view with a linear view of the sequence
- In the **Annotation Layout**, you also have the option of showing the labels as **Stacked**. This means that there are no overlapping labels and that all labels of both annotations and restriction sites are adjusted along the left and right edges of the view.

10.2.1 Using split views to see details of the circular molecule

In order to see the nucleotides of a circular molecule you can open a new view displaying a circular view of the molecule:

Press and hold the Ctrl button (⌘ on Mac) | click Show Sequence (ACT) at the bottom of the view

This will open a linear view of the sequence below the circular view. When you zoom in on the linear view you can see the residues as shown in figure 10.14.

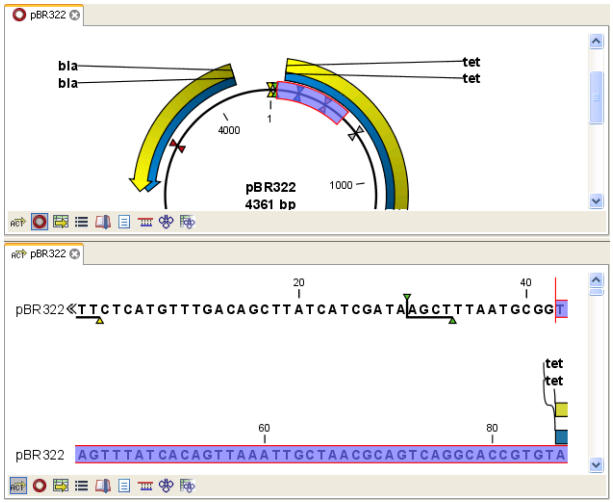

Figure 10.14: *Two views showing the same sequence. The bottom view is zoomed in.*

Note! If you make a selection in one of the views, the other view will also make the corresponding selection, providing an easy way for you to focus on the same region in both views.

10.2.2 Mark molecule as circular and specify starting point

You can mark a DNA molecule as circular by right-clicking its name in either the sequence view or the circular view. In the right-click menu you can also make a circular molecule linear. A circular molecule displayed in the normal sequence view, will have the sequence ends marked with a ».

The starting point of a circular sequence can be changed by:

make a selection starting at the position that you want to be the new starting point | right-click the selection | Move Starting Point to Selection Start

Note! This can only be done for sequence that have been marked as circular.

10.3 Working with annotations

Annotations provide information about specific regions of a sequence. A typical example is the annotation of a gene on a genomic DNA sequence.

Annotations derive from different sources:

- Sequences downloaded from databases like GenBank are annotated.
- In some of the data formats that can be imported into *CLC Combined Workbench*, sequences can have annotations (GenBank, EMBL and Swiss-Prot format).
- The result of a number of analyses in *CLC Combined Workbench* are annotations on the sequence (e.g. finding open reading frames and restriction map analysis).

- You can manually add annotations to a sequence (described in the section 10.3.2).

Note! Annotations are included if you export the sequence in GenBank, Swiss-Prot, EMBL or CLC format. When exporting in other formats, annotations are not preserved in the exported file.

10.3.1 Viewing annotations

Annotations can be viewed in a number of different ways:

- As arrows or boxes in the sequence views:
  - Linear and circular view of sequences ( ) / ( ).
  - Alignments ( ).
  - Graphical view of sequence lists ( ).
  - BLAST views (only the query sequence at the top can have annotations) ( ).
  - Cloning editor ( ).
  - Primer designer (both for single sequences and alignments) ( ) / ( ).
  - Contig view ( ).
- In the table of annotations ( ).
- In the text view of sequences ( )

In the following sections, these view options will be described in more detail.

In all the views except the text view ( ), annotations can be added, modified and deleted. This is described in the following sections.

View Annotations in sequence views

Figure 10.15 shows an annotation displayed on a sequence.

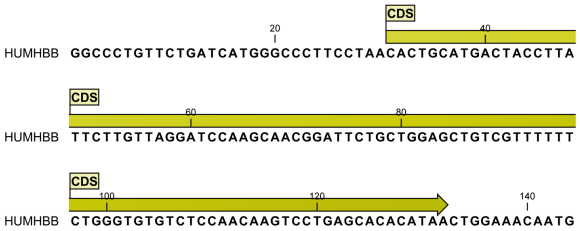

Figure 10.15: *An annotation showing a coding region on a genomic dna sequence.*

The various sequence views listed in section 10.3.1 have different default settings for showing annotations. However, they all have two groups in the **Side Panel** in common:

- **Annotation Layout**
- **Annotation Types**

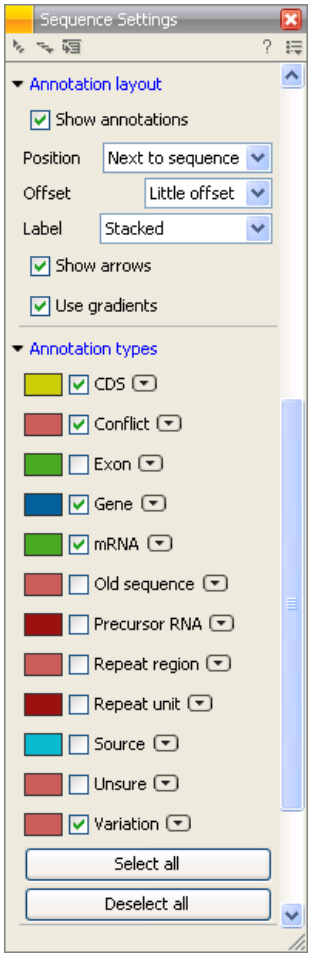

Figure 10.16: *Changing the layout of annotations in the Side Panel.*

The two groups are shown in figure 10.16.

In the **Annotation layout** group, you can specify how the annotations should be displayed (notice that there are some minor differences between the different sequence views):

- **Show annotations.** Determines whether the annotations are shown.
- **Position.**
  - **On sequence.** The annotations are placed on the sequence. The residues are visible through the annotations (if you have zoomed in to 100%).
  - **Next to sequence.** The annotations are placed above the sequence.
- **Offset.** If several annotations cover the same part of a sequence, they can be spread out.
  - **Piled.** The annotations are piled on top of each other. Only the one at front is visible.
  - **Little offset.** The annotations are piled on top of each other, but they have been offset a little.
  - **More offset.** Same as above, but with more spreading.
  - **Most offset.** The annotations are placed above each other with a little space between. This can take up a lot of space on the screen.

- **Label.** The name of the annotation can shown as a label. Additional information about the sequence is shown if you place the mouse cursor on the annotation and keep it still.
  - **No labels.** No labels are displayed.
  - **On annotation.** The labels are displayed in the annotation's box.
  - **Over annotation.** The labels are displayed above the annotations.
  - **Before annotation.** The labels are placed just to the left of the annotation.
  - **Flag.** The labels are displayed as flags at the beginning of the annotation.
  - **Stacked.** The labels are offset so that the text of all labels is visible. This means that there is varying distance between each sequence line to make room for the labels.
- **Show arrows.** Displays the end of the annotation as an arrow. This can be useful to see the orientation of the annotation (for DNA sequences). Annotations on the negative strand will have an arrow pointing to the left.
- **Use gradients.** Fills the boxes with gradient color.

In the **Annotation Types** group, you can choose which kinds of annotations that should be displayed. This group lists all the types of annotations that are attached to the sequence(s) in the view. For sequences with many annotations, it can be easier to get an overview if you deselect the annotation types that are not relevant.

Unchecking the checkboxes in the **Annotation Layout** will not remove this type of annotations them from the sequence - it will just hide them from the view.

Besides selecting which types of annotations that should be displayed, the **Annotation Types** group is also used to change the color of the annotations on the sequence. Click the colored square next to the relevant annotation type to change the color.

This will display a dialog with three tabs: Swatches, HSB, and RGB. They represent three different ways of specifying colors. Apply your settings and click **OK**. When you click **OK**, the color settings cannot be reset. The **Reset** function only works for changes made before pressing **OK**.

Furthermore, the **Annotation Types** can be used to easily browse the annotations by clicking the small button () next to the type. This will display a list of the annotations of that type (see figure 10.17).

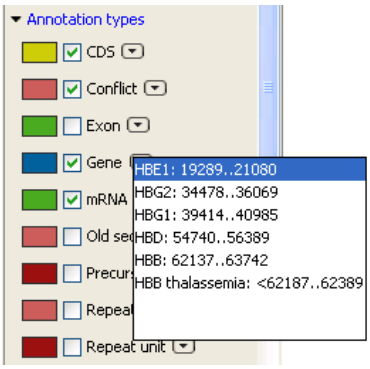

Figure 10.17: *Browsing the gene annotations on a sequence.*

Clicking an annotation in the list will select this region on the sequence. In this way, you can quickly find a specific annotation on a long sequence.

View Annotations in a table

Annotations can also be viewed in a table:

select the sequence in the Navigation Area | Show ( ) | Annotation Table ( )

or **If the sequence is already open | Click Show Annotation Table ( ) at the lower left part of the view**

This will open a view similar to the one in figure 10.18).

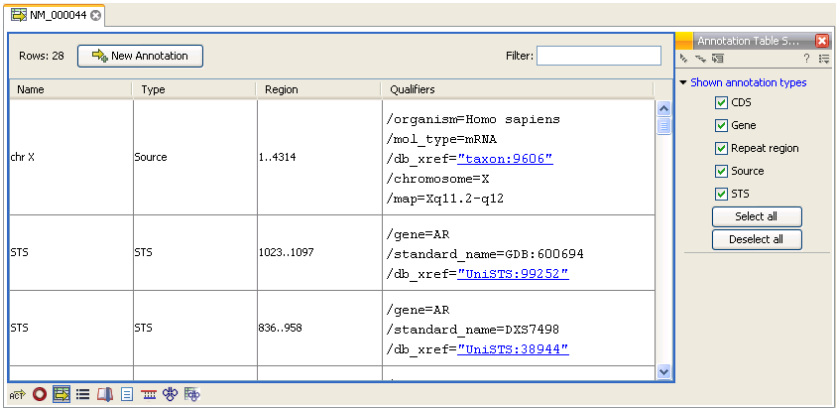

Figure 10.18: *A table showing annotations on the sequence.*

Each row in the table is an annotation which is represented with the following information:

- **Name.**
- **Type.**
- **Region.**
- **Qualifiers.**

The Name, Type and Region for each annotation can be edited simply by double-clicking, typing the change directly, and pressing **Enter**.

In the **Side Panel** you can show or hide individual annotation types in the table. E.g. if you only wish to see "gene" annotations, de-select the other annotation types so that only "gene" is selected.

This information corresponds to the information in the dialog when you edit and add annotations (see section 10.3.2).

You can benefit from this table in several ways:

- It provides an intelligible overview of all the annotations on the sequence.
- You can use the filter at the top to search the annotations. Type e.g. "UCP" into the filter and you will find all annotations which have "UCP" in either the name, the type, the region or the qualifiers. Combined with showing or hiding the annotation types in the **Side Panel**, this makes it easy to find annotations or a subset of annotations.
- You can copy and paste annotations, e.g. from one sequence to another.

- If you wish to edit many annotations consecutively, the double-click editing makes this very fast (see section 10.3.2).

10.3.2 Adding annotations

Adding annotations to a sequence can be done in two ways:

open the sequence in a sequence view (double-click in the Navigation Area | make a selection covering the part of the sequence you want to annotate[3] **| right-click the selection | Add Annotation ( )**

or **select the sequence in the Navigation Area | Show ( ) | Annotations ( ) | Add Annotation ( )**

This will display a dialog like the one in figure 10.19.

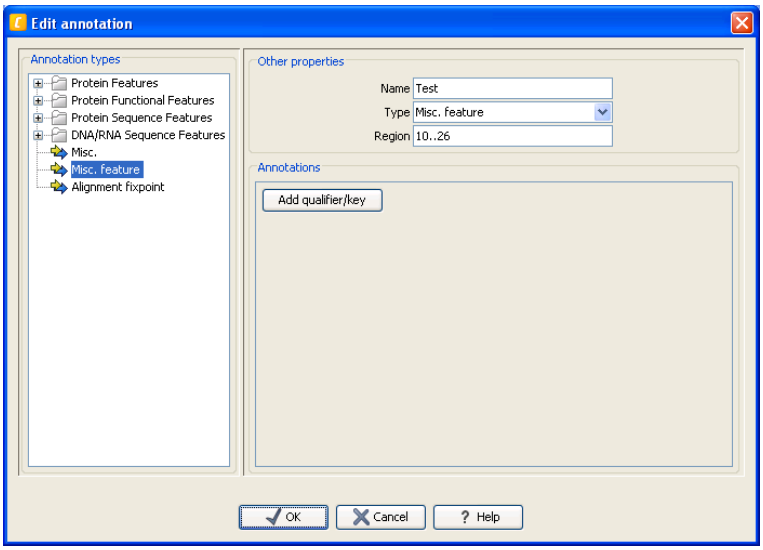

Figure 10.19: *The Add Annotation dialog.*

The left-hand part of the dialog lists a number of **Annotation types**. When you have selected an annotation type, it appears in **Type** to the right. You can also select an annotation directly in this list. Choosing an annotation type is mandatory. If you wish to use an annotation type which is not present in the list, simply enter this type into the **Type** field [4].

The right-hand part of the dialog contains the following text fields:

- **Name.** The name of the annotation which can be shown on the label in the sequence views. (Whether the name is actually shown depends on the **Annotation Layout** preferences, see section 10.3.1).
- **Type.** Reflects the left-hand part of the dialog as described above. You can also choose directly in this list or type your own annotation type.
- **Region.** If you have already made a selection, this field will show the positions of the selection. You can modify the region further using the conventions of DDBJ, EMBL

[4] Note that your own annotation types will be converted to "unsure" when exporting in GenBank format. As long as you use the sequence in CLC format, you own annotation type will be preserved

and GenBank. The following are examples of how to use the syntax (based on http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/collab/FT/):

- **467**. Points to a single residue in the presented sequence.
- **340..565**. Points to a continuous range of residues bounded by and including the starting and ending residues.
- **<345..500**. Indicates that the exact lower boundary point of a region is unknown. The location begins at some residue previous to the first residue specified (which is not necessarily contained in the presented sequence) and continues up to and including the ending residue.
- **<1..888**. The region starts before the first sequenced residue and continues up to and including residue 888.
- **1..>888**. The region starts at the first sequenced residue and continues beyond residue 888.
- **(102.110)**. Indicates that the exact location is unknown, but that it is one of the residues between residues 102 and 110, inclusive.
- **123^124**. Points to a site between residues 123 and 124.
- **join(12..78,134..202)**. Regions 12 to 78 and 134 to 202 should be joined to form one contiguous sequence.
- **complement(34..126)** Start at the residue complementary to 126 and finish at the residue complementary to residue 34 (the region is on the strand complementary to the presented strand).
- **complement(join(2691..4571,4918..5163))**. Joins regions 2691 to 4571 and 4918 to 5163, then complements the joined segments (the region is on the strand complementary to the presented strand).
- **join(complement(4918..5163),complement(2691..4571))**. Complements regions 4918 to 5163 and 2691 to 4571, then joins the complemented segments (the region is on the strand complementary to the presented strand).

- **Annotations.** In this field, you can add more information about the annotation like comments and links. Click the **Add qualifier/key** button to enter information. Select a qualifier which describes the kind of information you wish to add. If an appropriate qualifier is not present in the list, you can type your own qualifier. The pre-defined qualifiers are derived from the GenBank format. You can add as many qualifier/key lines as you wish by clicking the button. Redundant lines can be removed by clicking the delete icon ( ). The information entered on these lines is shown in the annotation table (see section 10.3.1) and in the yellow box which appears when you place the mouse cursor on the annotation. If you write a hyperlink in the **Key** text field, like e.g. "www.clcbio.com", it will be recognized as a hyperlink. Clicking the link in the annotation table will open a web browser.

Click **OK** to add the annotation.

Note! The annotation will be included if you export the sequence in GenBank, Swiss-Prot or CLC format. When exporting in other formats, annotations are not preserved in the exported file.

10.3.3 Edit annotations

To edit an existing annotation from within a sequence view:

right-click the annotation | Edit Annotation ( )

This will show the same dialog as in figure 10.19, with the exception that some of the fields are filled out depending on how much information the annotation contains.

There is another way of quickly editing annotations which is particularly useful when you wish to edit several annotations.

To edit the information, simply double-click and you will be able to edit e.g. the name or the annotation type. If you wish to edit the qualifiers and double-click in this column, you will see the dialog for editing annotations.

10.3.4 Removing annotations

Annotations can be hidden using the **Annotation Types** preferences in the **Side Panel** to the right of the view (see section 10.3.1). In order to completely remove the annotation:

right-click the annotation | Delete Annotation ( )

If you want to remove all annotations of one type:

right-click an annotation of the type you want to remove | Delete Annotations of This Type

If you want to remove all annotations from a sequence:

right-click an annotation | Delete All Annotations

The removal of annotations can be undone using Ctrl + Z or Undo ( ) in the Toolbar.

10.4 Sequence information

The normal view of a sequence (by double-clicking) shows the annotations as boxes along the sequence, but often there is more information available about sequences. This information is available through the **Sequence info** view.

To view the sequence information:

select a sequence in the Navigation Area | Show ( ) in the Toolbar | Sequence info ( )

This will display a view similar to fig 10.20.

All the lines in the view are headings, and the corresponding text can be shown by clicking the text.

- **Name.** The name of the sequence which is also shown in sequence views and in the **Navigation Area**.
- **Description.** A description of the sequence.
- **Comments.** The author's comments about the sequence.

Figure 10.20: *The initial display of sequence info for the HUMHBB DNA sequence from the Example data.*

- **Keywords.** Keywords describing the sequence.
- **Db source.** Accession numbers in other databases concerning the same sequence.
- **Gb Division.** Abbreviation of GenBank divisions. See section 3.3 in the GenBank release notes for a full list of GenBank divisions.
- **Length.** The length of the sequence.
- **Modification date.** Modification date from the database. This means that this date does not reflect your own changes to the sequence. See the history (section 8) for information about the latest changes to the sequence after it was downloaded from the database.
- **Organism.** Scientific name of the organism (first line) and taxonomic classification levels (second and subsequent lines).

The information available depends on the origin of the sequence. Sequences downloaded from database like NCBI and UniProt (see section 11) have this information. On the other hand, some sequence formats like fasta format do not contain this information.

Some of the information can be edited by clicking the blue **Edit** text. This means that you can add your own information to sequences that do not derive from databases.

10.5 View as text

A sequence can be viewed as text without any layout and text formatting. This displays all the information about the sequence in the GenBank file format. To view a sequence as text:

select a sequence in the Navigation Area | Show in the Toolbar | As text

This way it is possible to see background information about e.g. the authors and the origin of DNA and protein sequences. Selections or the entire text of the **Sequence Text Viewer** can be copied and pasted into other programs:

Much of the information is also displayed in the **Sequence info**, where it is easier to get an overview (see section 10.4.)

In the **Side Panel**, you find a search field for searching the text in the view.

10.6 Creating a new sequence

A sequence can either be imported, downloaded from an online database or created in the *CLC Combined Workbench*. This section explains how to create a new sequence:

New ( ) in the toolbar

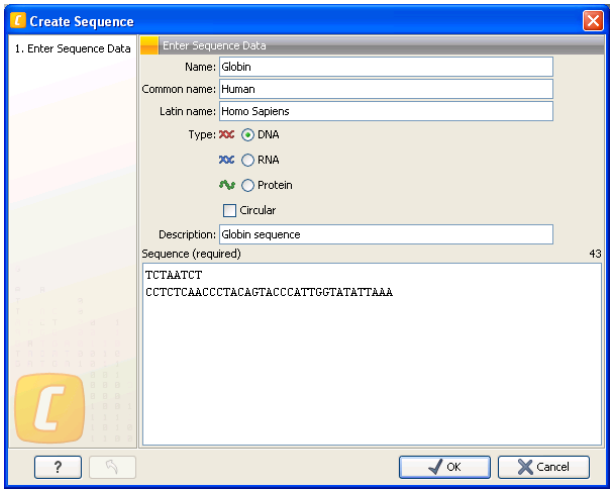

Figure 10.21: *Creating a sequence.*

The **Create Sequence** dialog (figure 10.21) reflects the information needed in the GenBank format, but you are free to enter anything into the fields. The following description is a guideline for entering information about a sequence:

- **Name.** The name of the sequence. This is used for saving the sequence.
- **Common name.** A common name for the species.
- **Latin name.** The Latin name for the species.
- **Type.** Select between DNA, RNA and protein.
- **Circular.** Specifies whether the sequence is circular. This will open the sequence in a circular view as default. (applies only to nucleotide sequences).
- **Description.** A description of the sequence.
- **Keywords.** A set of keywords separated by semicolons (;).
- **Comments.** Your own comments to the sequence.
- **Sequence.** Depending on the type chosen, this field accepts nucleotides or amino acids. Spaces and numbers can be entered, but they are ignored when the sequence is created. This allows you to paste (Ctrl + V on Windows and ⌘ + V on Mac) in a sequence directly from a different source, even if the residue numbers are included. Characters that are not part of the IUPAC codes cannot be entered. At the top right corner of the field, the number of residues are counted. The counter does not count spaces or numbers.

Clicking **Finish** opens the sequence. It can be saved by clicking **Save** ( ) or by dragging the tab of the sequence view into the **Navigation Area**.

10.7 Sequence Lists

The **Sequence List** shows a number of sequences in a tabular format or it can show the sequences together in a normal sequence view.

Having sequences in a sequence list can help organizing sequence data. The sequence list may originate from an NCBI search (chapter 11.1). Moreover, if a multiple sequence fasta file is imported, it is possible to store the data in a sequences list. A **Sequence List** can also be generated using a dialog, which is described here:

select two or more sequences | right-click the elements | New | Sequence List ( )

This action opens a **Sequence List** dialog:

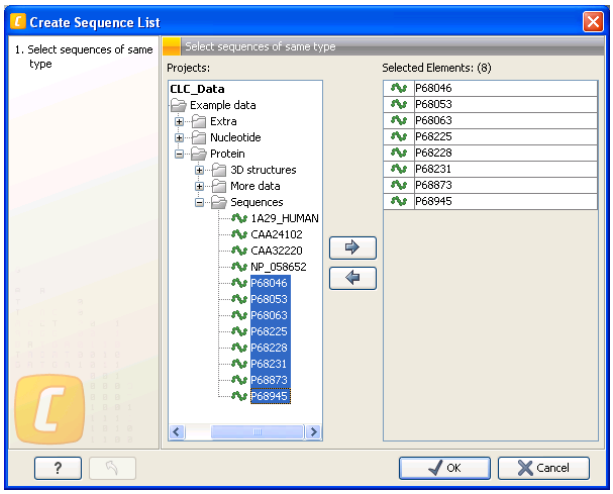

Figure 10.22: *A Sequence List dialog.*

The dialog allows you to select more sequences to include in the list, or to remove already chosen sequences from the list.

Clicking **Finish** opens the sequence list. It can be saved by clicking **Save** ( ) or by dragging the tab of the view into the **Navigation Area**.

Opening a Sequence list is done by:

right-click the sequence list in the Navigation Area | Show ( ) | Graphical Sequence List ( ) OR Table ( )

The two different views of the same sequence list are shown in split screen in figure 10.23.

10.7.1 Graphical view of sequence lists

The graphical view of sequence lists is almost identical to the view of single sequences (see section 10.1). The main difference is that you now can see more than one sequence in the same view.

However, you also have a few extra options for sorting, deleting and adding sequences:

- To add extra sequences to the list, right-click an empty (white) space in the view, and select **Add Sequences**.

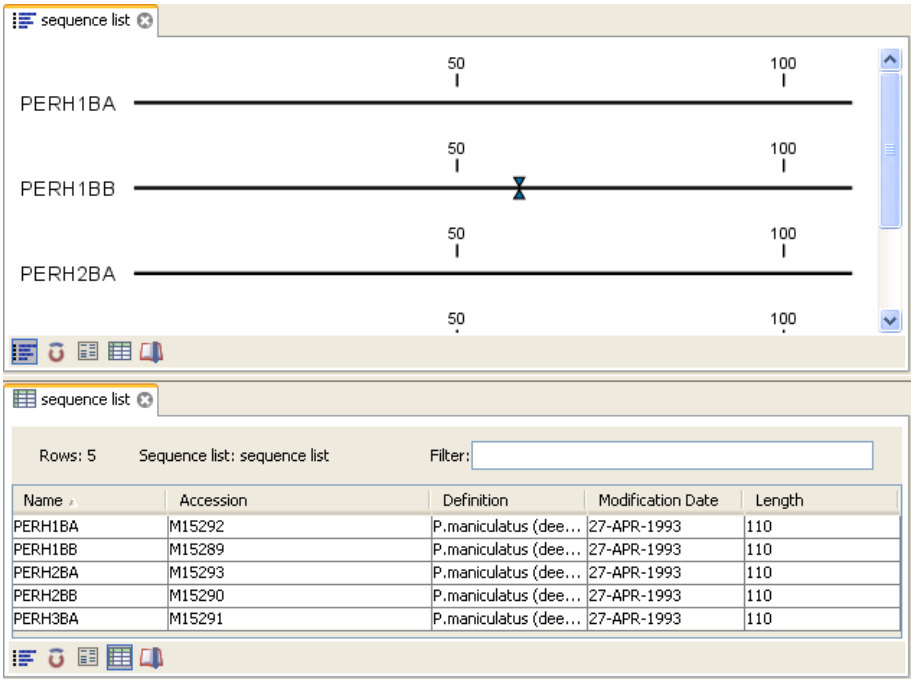

Figure 10.23: *A sequence list of two sequences can be viewed in either a table or in a graphical sequence list.*

- To delete a sequence from the list, right-click the sequence's name and select **Delete Sequence**.
- To sort the sequences in the list, right-click the name of one of the sequences and select **Sort Sequence List by Name** or **Sort Sequence List by Length**.
- To rename a sequence, right-click the name of the sequence and select **Rename Sequence**.

10.7.2 Sequence list table

Each sequence in the table sequence list is displayed with:

- Name.
- Accession.
- Description.
- Modification date.
- Length.

In the View preferences for the table view of the sequence list, columns can be excluded, and the view preferences can be saved in a style sheet. See section 5.5.

The sequences can be sorted by clicking the column headings. You can further refine the sorting by pressing Ctrl while clicking the heading of another column.

10.7.3 Extract sequences

It is possible to extract individual sequences from a sequence list in two ways. If the sequence list is opened in the tabular view, it is possible to drag (with the mouse) one or more sequences into the **Navigation Area**. This allows you to extract specific sequences from the entire list. Another option is to extract all sequences found in the list to a preferred location in the **Navigation Area**:

select a sequence list in the Navigation Area | File | Extract Sequences

Select a location for the sequences and click OK. Copies of all the sequences in the list are now placed in the location you selected.

Chapter 11

Online database search

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CLC Combined Workbench offers different ways of searching data on the Internet. You must be online when initiating and performing the following searches:

11.1 GenBank search

This section describes searches for sequences in GenBank - the **NCBI Entrez** database. The NCBI search view is opened in this way (figure 11.1):

Search | Search for Sequences at NCBI ( )

or **Ctrl + B (⌘ + B on Mac)**

This opens the following view:

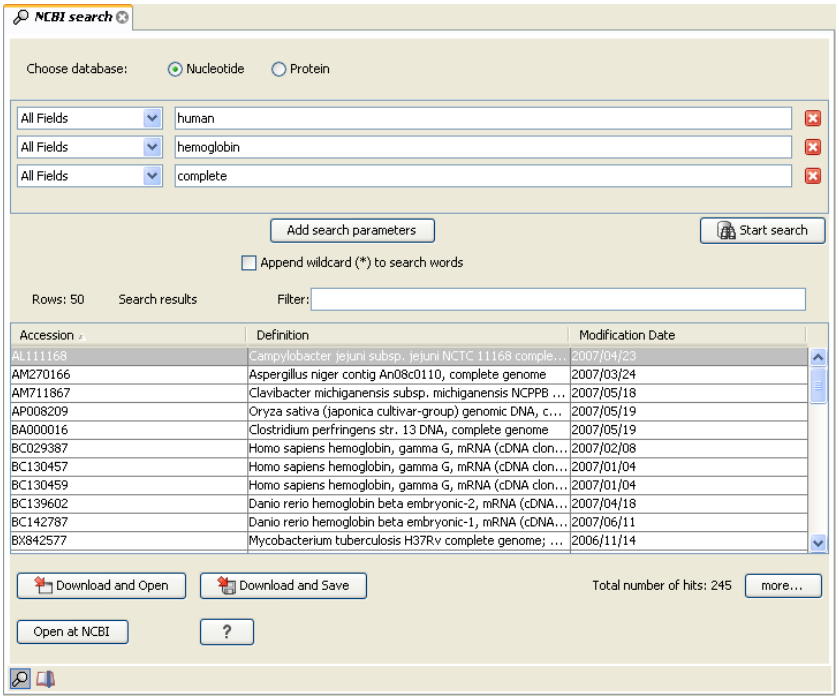

Figure 11.1: *The GenBank search view.*

11.1.1 GenBank search options

Conducting a search in the **NCBI Database** from *CLC Combined Workbench* corresponds to conducting the search on NCBI's website. When conducting the search from *CLC Combined Workbench*, the results are available and ready to work with straight away.

You can choose whether you want to search for nucleotide sequences or protein sequences.

As default, *CLC Combined Workbench* offers one text field where the search parameters can be entered. Click **Add search parameters** to add more parameters to your search.
Note! The search is a "and" search, meaning that when adding search parameters to your search, you search for both (or all) text strings rather than "any" of the text strings.

You can append a wildcard character by checking the checkbox at the bottom. This means that you only have to enter the first part of the search text, e.g. searching for "genom" will find both "genomic" and "genome".

The following parameters can be added to the search:

- **All fields**. Text, searches in all parameters in the NCBI database at the same time.
- **Organism**. Text.
- **Description**. Text.
- **Modified Since**. Between 30 days and 10 years.
- **Gene Location**. Genomic DNA/RNA, Mitochondrion, or Chloroplast.
- **Molecule**. Genomic DNA/RNA, mRNA or rRNA.
- **Sequence Length**. Number for maximum or minimum length of the sequence.

- **Gene Name**. Text.

The search parameters are the most recently used. The **All fields** allows searches in all parameters in the NCBI database at the same time. **All fields** also provide an opportunity to restrict a search to parameters which are not listed in the dialog. E.g. writing 'gene[Feature key] AND mouse' in **All fields** generates hits in the GenBank database which contains one or more genes and where 'mouse' appears somewhere in GenBank file. NB: the 'Feature Key' option is only available in GenBank when searching for nucleotide sequences. For more information about how to use this syntax, see http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/help/helpdoc.html#Writing_Advanced_Search_Statements

When you are satisfied with the parameters you have entered, click **Start search**.

Note! When conducting a search, no files are downloaded. Instead, the program produces a list of links to the files in the NCBI database. This ensures a much faster search.

11.1.2 Handling of GenBank search results

The search result is presented as a list of links to the files in the NCBI database. The **View** displays 50 hits at a time. This can be changed in the **Preferences** (see chapter 5). More hits can be displayed by clicking the **More...** button at the bottom right of the **View**.

Each sequence hit is represented by text in three columns:

- Accession.
- Description.
- Modification date.

It is possible to exclude one or more of these columns by adjust the View preferences for the database search view. Furthermore, your changes in the View preferences can be saved. See section 5.5.

Several sequences can be selected, and by clicking the buttons in the bottom of the search view, you can do the following:

- Download and open, doesn't save the sequence.
- Download and save, lets you choose location for saving sequence.
- Open at NCBI, searches the sequence at NCBI's web page.

Double-clicking a hit will download and open the sequence. The hits can also be copied into the **View Area** or the **Navigation Area** from the search results by drag and drop, copy/paste or by using the right-click menu as described below.

Drag and drop from GenBank search results

The sequences from the search results can be opened by dragging them into a position in the **View Area**.

Note! A sequence is not saved until the **View** displaying the sequence is closed. When that happens, a dialog opens: Save changes of sequence x? (Yes or No).

The sequence can also be saved by dragging it into the **Navigation Area**. It is possible to select more sequences and drag all of them into the **Navigation Area** at the same time.

Download GenBank search results using right-click menu

You may also select one or more sequences from the list and download using the right-click menu (see figure 11.2). Choosing **Download and Save** lets you select a folder where the sequences are saved when they are downloaded. Choosing **Download and Open** opens a new view for each of the selected sequences.

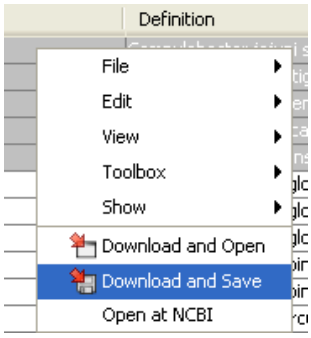

Figure 11.2: *By right-clicking a search result, it is possible to choose how to handle the relevant sequence.*

Copy/paste from GenBank search results

When using copy/paste to bring the search results into the **Navigation Area**, the actual files are downloaded from GenBank.

To copy/paste files into the **Navigation Area**:

> **select one or more of the search results | Ctrl + C (⌘ + C on Mac) | select a folder in the Navigation Area | Ctrl + V**

Note! Search results are downloaded before they are saved. Downloading and saving several files may take some time. However, since the process runs in the background (displayed in the **Status bar**) it is possible to continue other tasks in the program. Like the search process, the download process can be stopped. This is done in the **Toolbox** in the **Processes** tab.

11.1.3 Save GenBank search parameters

The search view can be saved either using dragging the search tab and and dropping it in the **Navigation Area** or by clicking **Save** (). When saving the search, only the parameters are saved - not the results of the search. This is useful if you have a special search that you perform from time to time.

Even if you don't save the search, the next time you open the search view, it will remember the parameters from the last time you did a search.

11.2 UniProt (Swiss-Prot/TrEMBL) search

This section describes searches in UniProt and the handling of search results. UniProt is a global database of protein sequences.

The UniProt search view (figure 11.3) is opened in this way:

Search | Search UniProt ( )

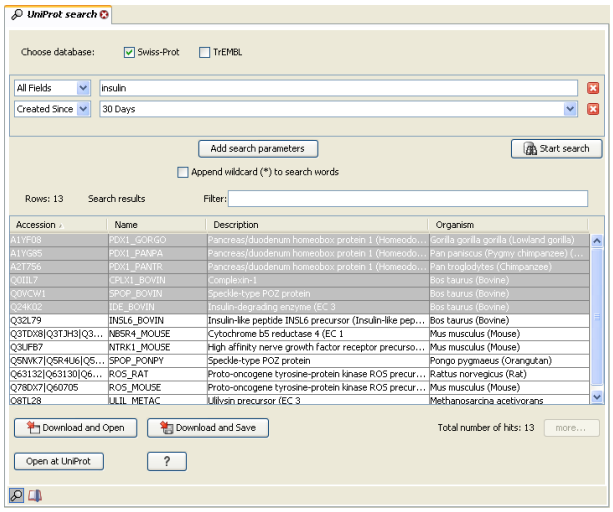

Figure 11.3: *The UniProt search view.*

11.2.1 UniProt search options

Conducting a search in **UniProt** from *CLC Combined Workbench* corresponds to conducting the search on UniProt's website. When conducting the search from *CLC Combined Workbench*, the results are available and ready to work with straight away.

Above the search fields, you can choose which database to search:

- **Swiss-Prot** This is believed to be the most accurate and best quality protein database available. All entries in the database has been currated manually and data are entered according to the original research paper.
- **TrEMBL** This database contain computer annotated protein sequences, thus the quality of the annotations is not as good as the Swiss-Prot database.

As default, *CLC Combined Workbench* offers one text field where the search parameters can be entered. Click **Add search parameters** to add more parameters to your search.
Note! The search is a "and" search, meaning that when adding search parameters to your search, you search for both (or all) text strings rather than "any" of the text strings.

You can append a wildcard character by checking the checkbox at the bottom. This means that you only have to enter the first part of the search text, e.g. searching for "genom" will find both "genomic" and "genome".

The following parameters can be added to the search:

- **All fields**. Text, searches in all parameters in the UniProt database at the same time.

- **Organism**. Text.
- **Description**. Text.
- **Created Since**. Between 30 days and 10 years.
- **Feature**. Text.

The search parameters listed in the dialog are the most recently used. The **All fields** allows searches in all parameters in the UniProt database at the same time.

When you are satisfied with the parameters you have entered, click **Start search**.

Note! When conducting a search, no files are downloaded. Instead, the program produces a list of links to the files in the UniProt database. This ensures a much faster search.

11.2.2 Handling of UniProt search results

The search result is presented as a list of links to the files in the UniProt database. The **View** displays 50 hits at a time (can be changed in the **Preferences** (see chapter 5). More hits can be displayed by clicking the **More...** button at the bottom right of the **View**. More hits can be displayed by clicking the **More...** button at the bottom left of the **View**.

Each sequence hit is represented by text in three columns:

- Accession
- Name
- Description
- Organism

It is possible to exclude one or more of these columns by adjust the View preferences for the database search view. Furthermore, your changes in the View preferences can be saved. See section 5.5.

Several sequences can be selected, and by clicking the buttons in the bottom of the search view, you can do the following:

- Download and open, does not save the sequence.
- Download and save, lets you choose location for saving sequence.
- Open at UniProt, searches the sequence at UniProt's web page.

Double-clicking a hit will download and open the sequence. The hits can also be copied into the **View Area** or the **Navigation Area** from the search results by drag and drop, copy/paste or by using the right-click menu as described below.

Drag and drop from UniProt search results

The sequences from the search results can be opened by dragging them into a position in the **View Area**.

Note! A sequence is not saved until the **View** displaying the sequence is closed. When that happens, a dialog opens: Save changes of sequence x? (Yes or No).

The sequence can also be saved by dragging it into the **Navigation Area**. It is possible to select more sequences and drag all of them into the **Navigation Area** at the same time.

Download UniProt search results using right-click menu

You may also select one or more sequences from the list and download using the right-click menu (see figure 11.2). Choosing **Download and Save** lets you select a folder or location where the sequences are saved when they are downloaded. Choosing **Download and Open** opens a new view for each of the selected sequences.

Copy/paste from UniProt search results

When using copy/paste to bring the search results into the **Navigation Area**, the actual files are downloaded from UniProt.

To copy/paste files into the **Navigation Area**:

> **select one or more of the search results** | **Ctrl + C (⌘ + C on Mac)** | **select location or folder in the Navigation Area** | **Ctrl + V**

Note! Search results are downloaded before they are saved. Downloading and saving several files may take some time. However, since the process runs in the background (displayed in the **Toolbox** under the **Processes** tab) it is possible to continue other tasks in the program. Like the search process, the download process can be stopped, paused, and resumed.

11.2.3 Save UniProt search parameters

The search view can be saved either using dragging the search tab and and dropping it in the **Navigation Area** or by clicking **Save** ( ). When saving the search, only the parameters are saved - not the results of the search. This is useful if you have a special search that you perform from time to time.

Even if you don't save the search, the next time you open the search view, it will remember the parameters from the last time you did a search.

11.3 Search for structures at NCBI

This section describes searches for three dimensional structures from the NCBI structure database `http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Structure/MMDB/mmdb.shtml`. For manipulating and visualization of the downloaded structures see section 13.

The NCBI search view is opened in this way:

> **Search** | **Search for structures at NCBI** ( )

or **Ctrl + B (⌘ + B on Mac)**

This opens the view shown in figure 11.4:

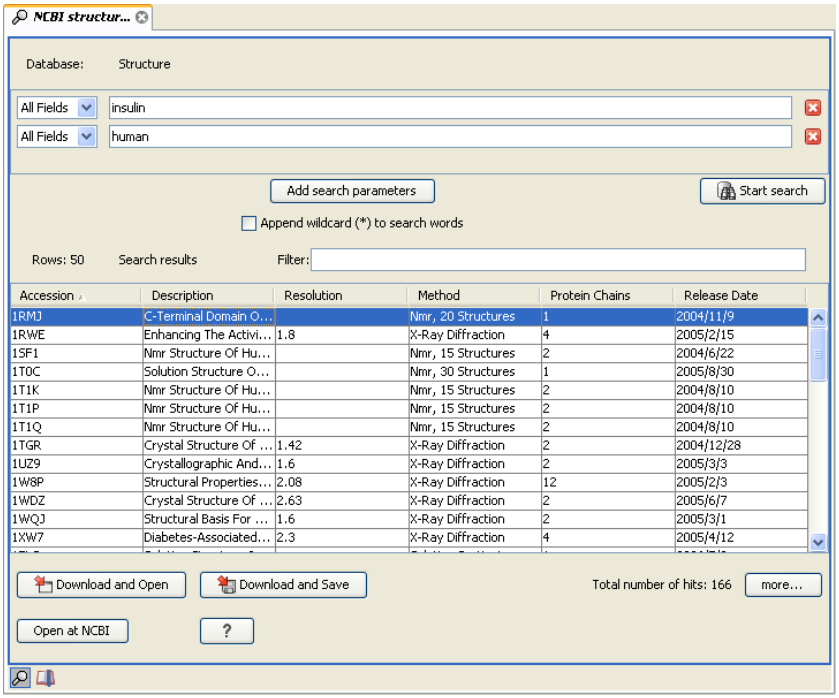

Figure 11.4: *The structure search view.*

11.3.1 Structure search options

Conducting a search in the **NCBI Database** from *CLC Combined Workbench* corresponds to conducting search for structures on the NCBI's Entrez website. When conducting the search from *CLC Combined Workbench*, the results are available and ready to work with straight away.

As default, *CLC Combined Workbench* offers one text field where the search parameters can be entered. Click **Add search parameters** to add more parameters to your search.

Note! The search is a "AND" search, meaning that when adding search parameters to your search, you search for both (or all) text strings rather than "any" of the text strings.

You can append a wildcard character by clicking the checkbox at the bottom. This means that you only have to enter the first part of the search text, e.g. searching for "prot" will find both "protein" and "protease".

The following parameters can be added to the search:

- **All fields**. Text, searches in all parameters in the NCBI structure database at the same time.
- **Organism**. Text.
- **Author**. Text.
- **PdbAcc**. The accession number of the structure in the PDB database.

The search parameters are the most recently used. The **All fields** allows searches in all parameters in the database at the same time.

All fields also provide an opportunity to restrict a search to parameters which are not listed in the dialog. E.g. writing 'gene[Feature key] AND mouse' in **All fields** generates hits in the GenBank database which contains one or more genes and where 'mouse' appears somewhere in GenBank file. NB: the 'Feature Key' option is only available in GenBank when searching for nucleotide structures. For more information about how to use this syntax, see http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/help/Summary_Matrices.html#Search_Fields_and_Qualifiers

When you are satisfied with the parameters you have entered click **Start search**.

Note! When conducting a search, no files are downloaded. Instead, the program produces a list of links to the files in the NCBI database. This ensures a much faster search.

11.3.2 Handling of NCBI structure search results

The search result is presented as a list of links to the files in the NCBI database. The **View** displays 50 hits at a time (can be changed in the **Preferences** (see chapter 5). More hits can be displayed by clicking the **More...** button at the bottom right of the **View**.

Each structure hit is represented by text in three columns:

- Accession.
- Description.
- Resolution.
- Method.
- Protein chains
- Release date.

It is possible to exclude one or more of these columns by adjust the View preferences for the database search view. Furthermore, your changes in the View preferences can be saved. See section 5.5.

Several structures can be selected, and by clicking the buttons in the bottom of the search view, you can do the following:

- **Download and open.** Download and open immediately.
- **Download and save.** Download and save lets you choose location for saving structure.
- **Open at NCBI.** Open additional information on the selected structure at NCBI's web page.

Double-clicking a hit will download and open the structure. The hits can also be copied into the **View Area** or the **Navigation Area** from the search results by drag and drop, copy/paste or by using the right-click menu as described below.

Drag and drop from structure search results

The structures from the search results can be opened by dragging them into a position in the **View Area**.

Note! A structure is not saved until the **View** displaying the structure is closed. When that happens, a dialog opens: Save changes of structure x? (Yes or No).

The structure can also be saved by dragging it into the **Navigation Area**. It is possible to select more structures and drag all of them into the **Navigation Area** at the same time.

Download structure search results using right-click menu

You may also select one or more structures from the list and download using the right-click menu (see figure 11.5). Choosing **Download and Save** lets you select a folder or location where the structures are saved when they are downloaded. Choosing **Download and Open** opens a new view for each of the selected structures.

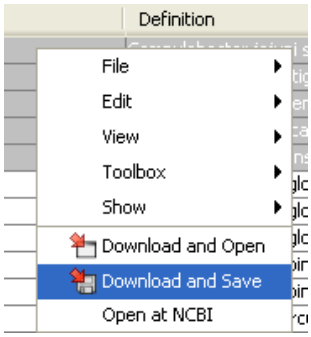

Figure 11.5: *By right-clicking a search result, it is possible to choose how to handle the relevant structure.*

The selected structures are not downloaded from the NCBI website but is downloaded from the RCSB Protein Data Bank `http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/home/home.do` in mmCIF format.

Copy/paste from structure search results

When using copy/paste to bring the search results into the **Navigation Area**, the actual files are downloaded.

To copy/paste files into the **Navigation Area**:

> **select one or more of the search results | Ctrl + C (⌘ + C on Mac) | select location or folder in the Navigation Area | Ctrl + V**

Note! Search results are downloaded before they are saved. Downloading and saving several files may take some time. However, since the process runs in the background (displayed in the **Status bar**) it is possible to continue other tasks in the program. Like the search process, the download process can be stopped. This is done in the **Toolbox** in the **Processes** tab.

11.3.3 Save structure search parameters

The search view can be saved either using dragging the search tab and and dropping it in the **Navigation Area** or by clicking **Save** (). When saving the search, only the parameters are saved

- not the results of the search. This is useful if you have a special search that you perform from time to time.

Even if you don't save the search, the next time you open the search view, it will remember the parameters from the last time you did a search.

11.4 Sequence web info

CLC Combined Workbench provides direct access to web-based search in various databases and on the Internet using your computer's default browser. You can look up a sequence in the databases of NCBI and UniProt, search for a sequence on the Internet using Google and search for Pubmed references at NCBI. This is useful for quickly obtaining updated and additional information about a sequence.

The functionality of these search functions depends on the information that the sequence contains. You can see this information by viewing the sequence as text (see section 10.5). In the following sections, we will explain this in further detail.

The procedure for searching is identical for all four search options (see also figure 11.6):

Open a sequence or a sequence list | Right-click the name of the sequence | Web Info ( ) | select the desired search function

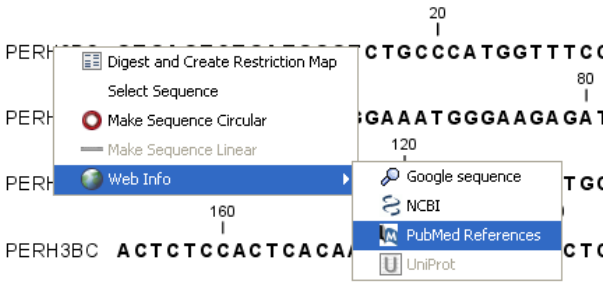

Figure 11.6: *Open webpages with information about this sequence.*

This will open your computer's default browser searching for the sequence that you selected.

11.4.1 Google sequence

The Google search function uses the accession number of the sequence which is used as search term on http://www.google.com. The resulting web page is equivalent to typing the accession number of the sequence into the search field on http://www.google.com.

11.4.2 NCBI

The NCBI search function searches in GenBank at NCBI (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) using an identification number (when you view the sequence as text it is the "GI" number). Therefor, the sequence file must contain this number in order to look it up in NCBI. All sequences downloaded from NCBI have this number.

11.4.3 PubMed References

The PubMed references search option lets you look up Pubmed articles based on references contained in the sequence file (when you view the sequence as text it contains a number of "PUBMED" lines). Not all sequence have these PubMed references, but in this case you will se a dialog and the browser will not open.

11.4.4 UniProt

The UniProt search function searches in the UniProt database (http://www.ebi.uniprot.org) using the accession number. Furthermore, it checks whether the sequence was indeed downloaded from UniProt.

11.4.5 Additional annotation information

When sequences are downloaded from GenBank they often link to additional information on taxonomy, conserved domains etc. If such information is available for a sequence it is possible to access additional accurate online information. If the db_xref identifier line is found as part of the annotation information in the downloaded GenBank file, it is possible to easily look up additional information on the NCBI web-site.

To access this feature, simply right click an annotation and see which databases are available.

Chapter 12

BLAST search

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CLC Combined Workbench offers to conduct BLAST searches on protein and DNA sequences. In short, a BLAST search identifies homologous sequences by searching one or more databases hosted by NCBI (`http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/`), on your query sequence [McGinnis and Madden, 2004]. BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool), identifies homologous sequences using a heuristic method which finds short matches between two sequences. After initial match

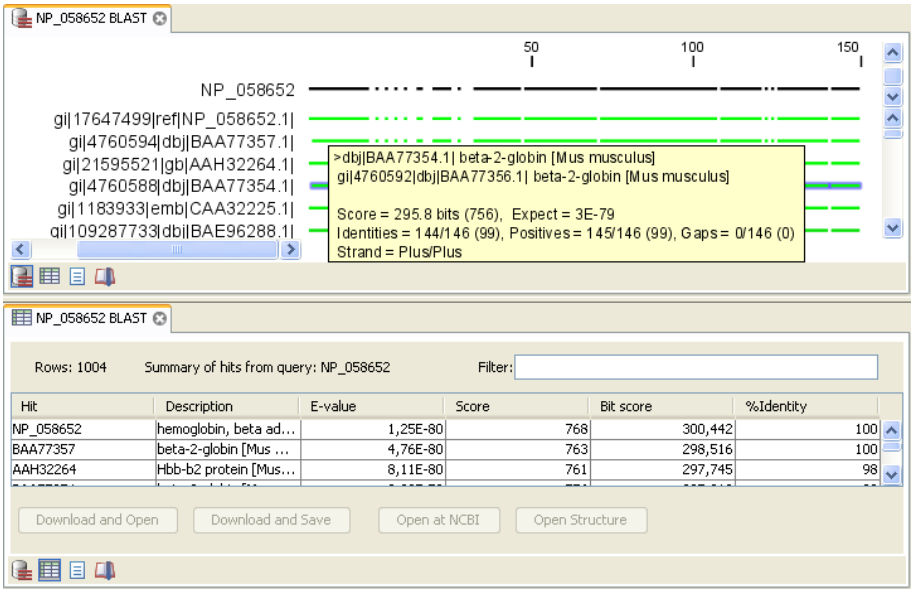

Figure 12.1: *Display of the output of a BLAST search. At the top is there a graphical representation of BLAST hits with tool-tips showing additional information on individual hits. Below is a tabular form of the BLAST results.*

BLAST attempts to start local alignments from these initial matches. You can also specify that another database should be used for BLAST searches (see section 5.3).

From *CLC Combined Workbench* it is also possible to conduct BLAST searches on a database stored locally on your computer. Local BLAST and the creation of a database for local BLAST search is described later in this chapter.

If you are interested in the bioinformatics behind BLAST, there is an easy-to-read explanation of this in the last section of the chapter.

12.1 BLAST Against NCBI Database

To conduct a BLAST search:

> **click an element in the Navigation Area | Toolbox | BLAST Search ( ) | NCBI BLAST ( )**

Alternatively, use the keyboard shortcut: Ctrl+Shift+B for Windows and ⌘ +Shift+B on Mac OS. This opens the BLAST dialog.

This opens the dialog seen in figure 12.2

Click **Next**.

In **Step 2**, you can choose which type of BLAST search you want to conduct, and you can limit your search to a particular database (see section B in the appendix for a list of available databases). Step 2 can be seen in figure 12.3:

BLAST search for DNA sequences:

- **BLASTn: DNA sequence against DNA database.** This BLAST method is used to identify homologous DNA sequences to your query sequence.

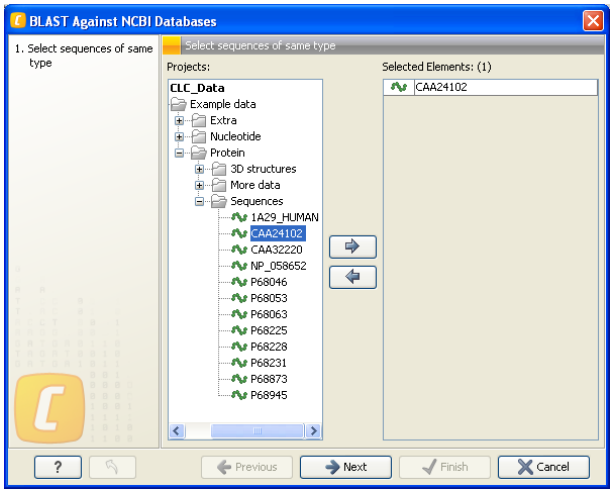

Figure 12.2: *Choose one or more sequences to conduct a BLAST search.*

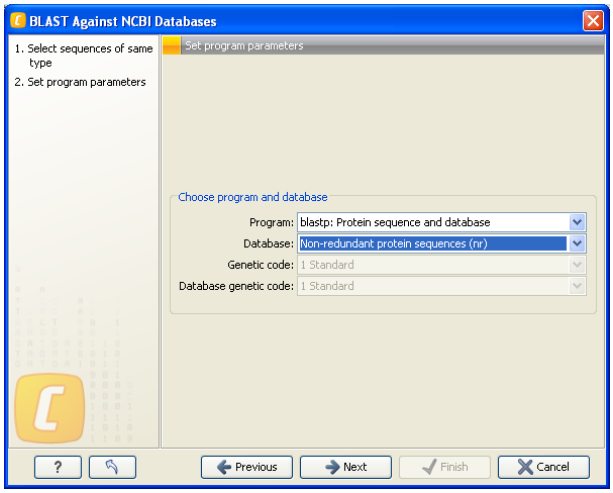

Figure 12.3: *Choose a BLAST Program and a database for the search.*

- **BLASTx: Translated DNA sequence against Protein database.** If you want to search in protein databases, this BLAST method allows for automated translation of the DNA input sequence and searching in various protein databases.
- **tBLASTx: Translated DNA sequence against Translated DNA database.** Here is both the input DNA sequence and the searched DNA database automatically translated.

BLAST search for protein sequences:

- **BLASTp: Protein sequence against Protein database.** This the most common BLAST method used when searching for homologous protein sequences having a protein sequence as search input.
- **tBLASTn: Protein sequence against Translated DNA database.** Here is the protein sequence searched against an automatically translated DNA database.

Depending on whether you choose a protein or a DNA sequence, a number of different databases can be searched. A complete list of these databases can be found in Appendix B.

When **nr** appears in the **Database** parameter drop down menu, the search will include all relevant databases at NCBI. The **nr** database is the most complete, but also the most redundant database that can be searched. Searches can be limited to less complete databases. As an example, when choosing **pdb** only sequences with a known structure are searched. If homologous sequences are found to the query sequence, these can be downloaded and opened with the 3D viewer of *CLC Protein Workbench* or *CLC Combined Workbench*.

When choosing BLASTx or tBLASTx to conduct a search, you get the option of selecting a translation table for the genetic code. The standard genetic code is set as default. This is particularly useful when working with organisms or organelles which have a genetic code that differs from the standard genetic code.

In **Step 3** you can limit the BLAST search by adjusting the parameters seen in figure 12.4

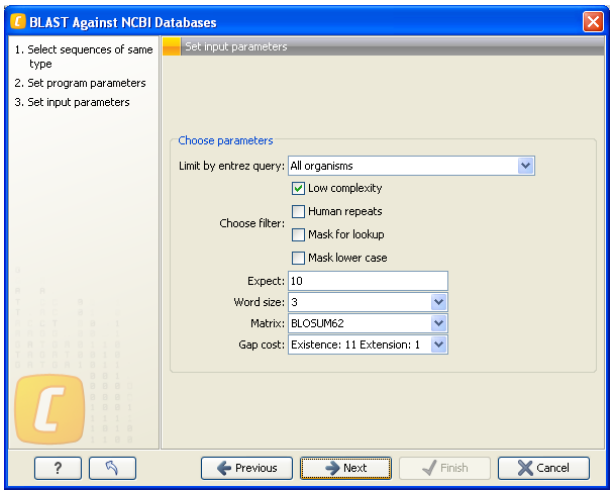

Figure 12.4: *Examples of different limitations which can be set before submitting a BLAST search.*

The following description of BLAST search parameters is based on information from http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/blastcgihelp.shtml.

- **Limit by Entrez query** BLAST searches can be limited to the results of an Entrez query against the database chosen. This can be used to limit searches to subsets of the BLAST databases. Any terms can be entered that would normally be allowed in an Entrez search session. Some queries are pre-entered and can be chosen in the drop down menu.
- **Choose filter**
  - **Low-complexity.** Mask off segments of the query sequence that have low compositional complexity. Filtering can eliminate statistically significant, but biologically uninteresting reports from the BLAST output (e.g. hits against common acidic-, basic- or proline-rich regions), leaving the more biologically interesting regions of the query sequence available for specific matching against database sequences.
  - **Human repeats.** This option masks Human repeats (LINE's and SINE's) and is especially useful for human sequences that may contain these repeats. Filtering for repeats can increase the speed of a search especially with very long sequences (>100 kb) and against databases which contain large number of repeats (htgs).
  - **Mask for lookup.** This option masks only for purposes of constructing the lookup table used by BLAST. BLAST searches consist of two phases, finding hits based upon a lookup table and then extending them.

  - **Mask lower case.** With this option selected you can cut and paste a FASTA sequence in upper case characters and denote areas you would like filtered with lower case. This allows you to customize what is filtered from the sequence during the comparison to the BLAST databases

- **Expect.** The statistical significance threshold for reporting matches against database sequences: the default value is 10, meaning that 10 matches are expected to be found merely by chance, according to the stochastic model of Karlin and Altschul (1990). If the statistical significance ascribed to a match is greater than the EXPECT threshold, the match will not be reported. Lower EXPECT thresholds are more stringent, leading to fewer chance matches being reported. Increasing the threshold shows less stringent matches. Fractional values are acceptable.

- **Word Size.** BLAST is a heuristic that works by finding word-matches between the query and database sequences. You may think of this process as finding "hot-spots" that BLAST can then use to initiate extensions that might lead to full-blown alignments. For nucleotide-nucleotide searches (i.e. "BLASTn") an exact match of the entire word is required before an extension is initiated, so that you normally regulate the sensitivity and speed of the search by increasing or decreasing the wordsize. For other BLAST searches non-exact word matches are taken into account based upon the similarity between words. The amount of similarity can be varied so that you normally uses just the wordsizes 2 and 3 for these searches.

- **Matrix.** A key element in evaluating the quality of a pairwise sequence alignment is the "substitution matrix", which assigns a score for aligning any possible pair of residues. The matrix used in a BLAST search can be changed depending on the type of sequences you are searching with (see the BLAST Frequently Asked Questions). Only applicable for protein sequences or translated DNA sequences.

- **Gap Cost.** The pull down menu shows the Gap Costs (Penalty to open Gap and penalty to extend Gap). Increasing the Gap Costs and Lambda ratio will result in alignments which decrease the number of Gaps introduced.

The more limitations are submitted to the search parameters, the faster the search will be conducted. If no limitations are submitted, the BLAST search may take several minutes.

12.1.1 BLAST a selection against NCBI

If you only wish to BLAST a part of a sequence, this is possible directly from the sequence view:

select the region that you wish to BLAST | right-click the selection | BLAST Selection Against NCBI ( )

This will go directly to the dialog shown in figure 12.3 and the rest of the options are the same as when performing a BLAST search with a full sequence.

12.2 BLAST Against Local Database

CLC Combined Workbench will let you conduct a BLAST search in a local database. See section 12.4 for more about how to create a database.

The advantage of conducting a local BLAST search is the speed and that it is possible to BLAST very long sequences.

To conduct a Local BLAST search:

right-click the tab of an open sequence | Toolbox | BLAST Search ( ) | Local BLAST ( )

or **click an element in the Navigation Area | Toolbox | BLAST Search ( ) | Local BLAST ( )**

This opens the dialog seen in figure 12.5:

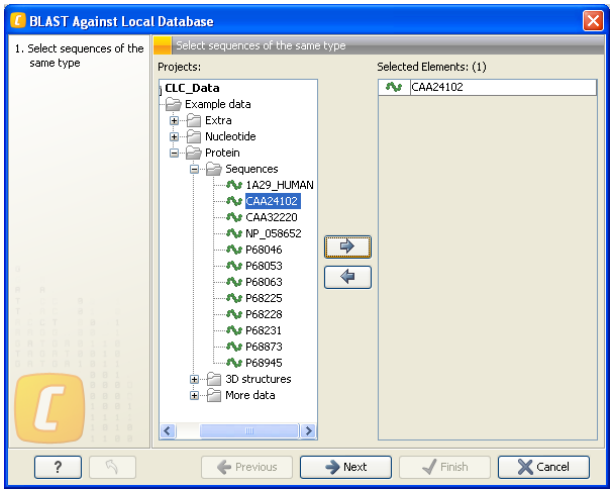

Figure 12.5: *Choose one or more sequences to conduct a Local BLAST search.*

Click **Next**.

This opens the dialog seen in figure 12.6:

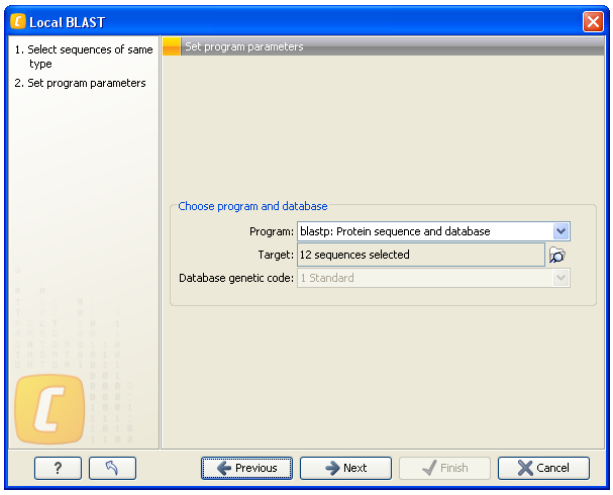

Figure 12.6: *Choose a BLAST program and a local database to conduct BLAST search.*

In **Step 2**,you can choose between different BLAST methods. See section 12.1 for information about these methods. In this step you can also choose which of your local BLAST databases you want to conduct the search in. Clicking **Select Database** opens the dialog shown in figure 12.7:

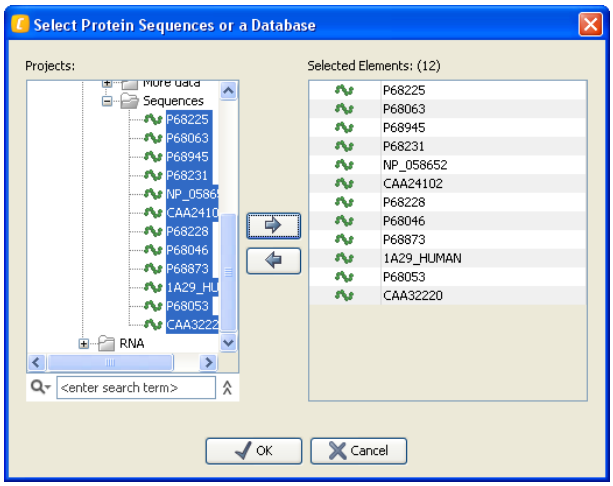

Figure 12.7: *Select a BLAST database or a set of sequences.*

In this dialog you can either choose a database (see section 12.4), or you can select a set of sequences which will be used as the database to BLAST against. If you select sequence instead of an existing database, it may take a little bit longer to perform the BLAST search, since a temporary database is created "on the fly" before the actual BLAST begins. If you often BLAST against the same set of sequences, it will be faster to create the database first (see section 12.4).

When a database or a set of sequences has been selected, click **Next**.

This opens the dialog seen in figure 12.8:

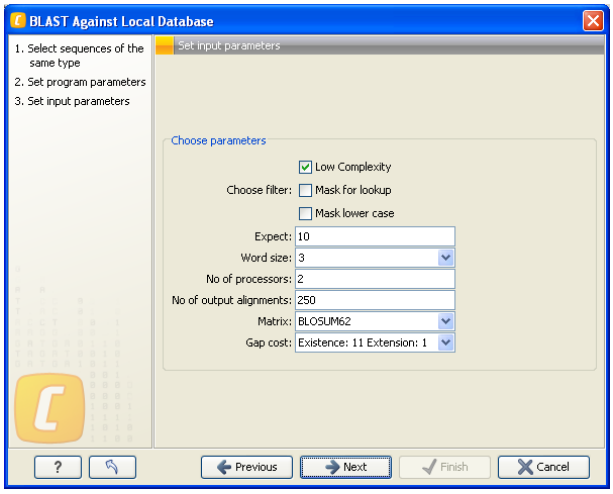

Figure 12.8: *Examples of different limitations which can be set before submitting a BLAST search.*

See section 12.1 for information about these limitations.

Additional settings in the Local BLAST wizard.

- **Number of processors.** It is possible to specify the number of processors which should be used if the Workbench is installed on a multi-processor system.

- **Number of output alignments.** Limit the number of output alignments based on the E-value.

The local BLAST is in *CLC Combined Workbench* is NCBI BLAST version 2.2.17 (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/).

12.2.1 BLAST a selection against a local database

If you only wish to BLAST a part of a sequence, this is possible directly from the sequence view:

select the region that you wish to BLAST | right-click the selection | BLAST Selection Against Local Database ( )

This will go directly to the dialog shown in figure 12.6 and the rest of the options are the same as when performing a BLAST search with a full sequence.

12.3 Output from BLAST search

In the last step of the BLAST searches, you can specify the output options as shown in figure 12.9:

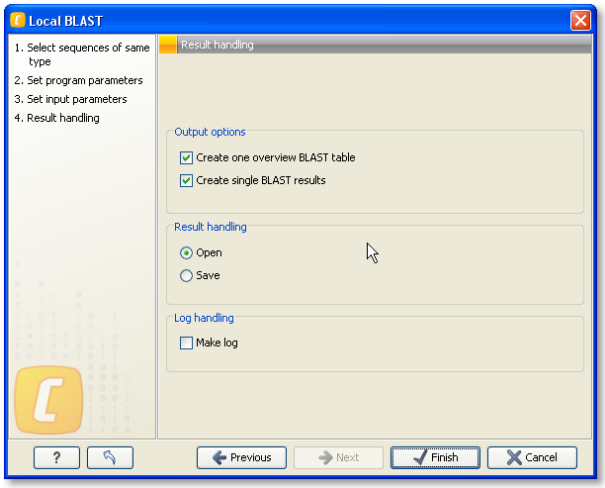

Figure 12.9: *Output options for BLAST.*

At the top, you can choose two different ways of getting the results of the BLAST search:

- **Create overview BLAST table**. This will create one table containing and summarizing all the BLAST results. See section 12.3.1.
- **Create one BLAST result per query**. This will create a BLAST result for each query sequence which can be opened in a table (see section 12.3.3) or in the graphical alignment view (see section 12.3.2).

12.3.1 Overview BLAST table

In the overview BLAST table shown in figure 12.10, there is one row for each query sequence. Each row represents the BLAST result for this query sequence.

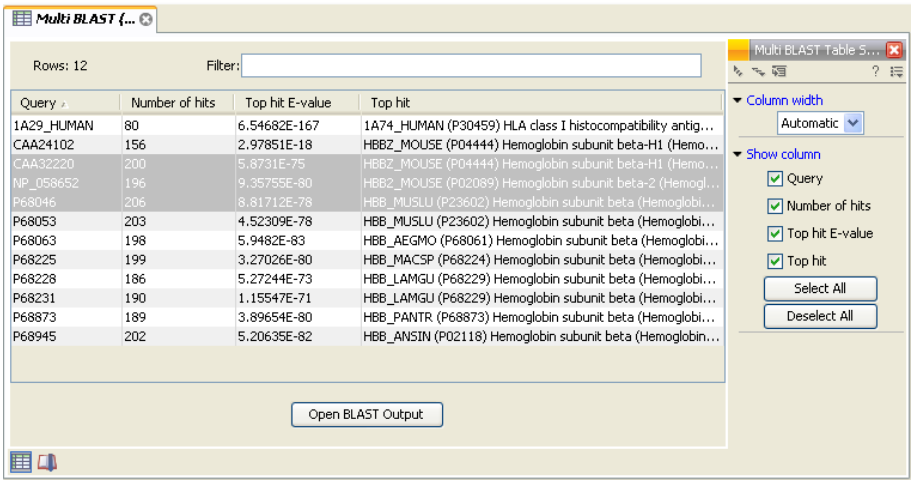

Figure 12.10: *An overview BLAST table summarizing the results for a number of query sequences.*

Double-clicking a row will open the BLAST result for this query sequence, allowing more detailed investigation of the result. You can also select one or more rows and click the **Open BLAST Output** button at the bottom of the view. In the overview table, the following information is shown:

- Query: Since this table displays information about several query sequences, the first column is the name of the query sequence.
- Number of hits: The number of hits for this query sequence.
- Top hit E-value: The E-value of the top hit is shown here. The top hit is defined as the hit with the lowest E-value.
- Top hit: The description of the top hit. If there is no description, it will just be the name of the top hit.

If you wish to save some of the BLAST results as individual elements in the **Navigation Area**, open them and click **Save As** in the **File** menu.

12.3.2 BLAST graphics

The **BLAST editor** shows the sequences hits which were found in the BLAST search. The hit sequences are represented by colored horizontal lines, and when hovering the mouse pointer over a BLAST hit sequence, a tooltip appears, listing the characteristics of the sequence. As default, the query sequence is fitted to the window width, but it is possible to zoom in the windows and see the actual sequence alignments returned from the BLAST server.

There are several settings available in the **BLAST Graphics** view.

- **BLAST Layout.** You can choose to **Gather sequences at top**. Enabling this option affects the view that is shown when scrolling horizontally along a BLAST result. If selected, the sequence hits which did not contribute to the visible part of the BLAST graphics will be omitted whereas the found BLAST hits will automatically be placed right below the query sequence.
- **BLAST hit coloring.** You can choose whether to color hit sequences and you can adjust the coloring.

- **Compactness**: In the **Sequence Layout** in the Side Panel, you can control the level of sequence detail to be displayed:
  - **Not compact.** Full detail and spaces between the sequences.
  - **Low.** The normal settings where the residues are visible (when zoomed in) but with no extra spaces between.
  - **Medium.** The sequences are represented as lines and the residues are not visible. There is some space between the sequences.
  - **Compact.** Even less space between the sequences.
- **Coverage**: In the Alignment info in the Side Panel, you can visualize the number of hit sequences at a given position on the query sequence. The level of coverage is relative to the overall number of hits included in the result.
  - **Foreground color.** Colors the letters using a gradient, where the left side color is used for low coverage and the right side is used for maximum coverage.
  - **Background color.** Colors the background of the letters using a gradient, where the left side color is used for low coverage and the right side is used for maximum coverage
  - **Graph.** The coverage is displayed as a graph beneath the contig.
    - **Height.** Specifies the height of the graph.
    - **Type.** The graph can be displayed as Line plot, Bar plot or as a Color bar.
    - **Color box.** For Line and Bar plots, the color of the plot can be set by clicking the color box. If a Color bar is chosen, the color box is replaced by a gradient color box as described under Foreground color.

The remaining View preferences for BLAST Graphics are the same as those of alignments. See section 20.2.

Some of the information available in the tooltips is:

- **Name of sequence.** Here is shown some additional information of the sequence which was found. This line corresponds to the description line in GenBank (if the search was conducted on the nr database).
- **Score.** This shows the bit score of the local alignment generated through the BLAST search.
- **Expect.** Also known as the E-value. A low value indicates a homologous sequence. Higher E-values indicate that BLAST found a less homologous sequence.
- **Identities.** This number shows the number of identical residues or nucleotides in the obtained alignment.
- **Gaps.** This number shows whether the alignment has gaps or not.
- **Strand.** This is only valid for nucleotide sequences and show the direction of the aligned strands. Minus indicate a complementary strand.
- **Query.** This is the sequence (or part of the sequence) which you have used for the BLAST search.
- **Sbjct (subject).** This is the sequence found in the database.

The numbers of the query and subject sequences refer to the sequence positions in the submitted and found sequences. If the subject sequence has number 59 in front of the sequence, this means that 58 residues are found upstream of this position, but these are not included in the alignment.

By right clicking the sequence name in the Graphical BLAST output it is possible to download the full hits sequence from NCBI with accompanying annotations and information. It is also possible to just open the actual hit sequence in a new view.

12.3.3 BLAST table

In addition to the graphical display of a BLAST result, it is possible to view the BLAST results in a tabular view. In the tabular view, one can get a quick and fast overview of the results. Here you can also select multiple sequences and download or open all of these in one single step. Moreover, there is a link from each sequence to the sequence at NCBI. These possibilities are either available through a right-click with the mouse or by using the buttons below the table.

If the **BLAST table** view was not selected in **Step 4** of the BLAST search, the table can be shown in the following way:

Click the Show BLAST Table button ( ) at the bottom of the view

Figure 12.11 is an example of a BLAST Table.

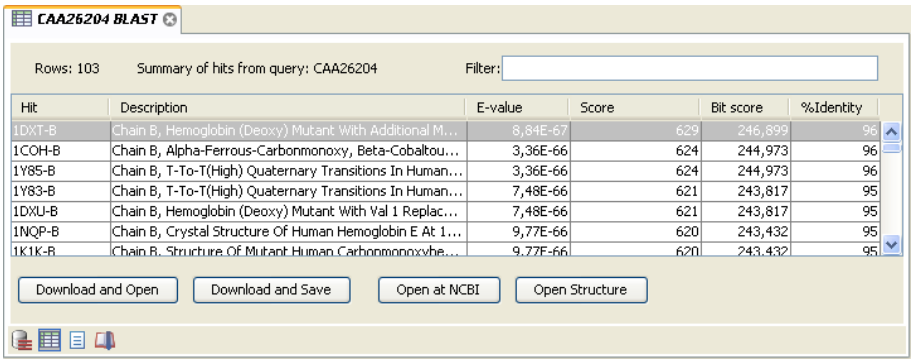

Figure 12.11: *Display of the output of a BLAST search in the tabular view. The hits can be sorted by the different columns, simply by clicking the column heading.*

The BLAST Table includes the following information:

- **Query sequence.** The sequence which was used for the search.
- **Hit.** The Name of the sequences found in the BLAST search.
- **Description.** Text from NCBI describing the sequence.
- **E-value.** Measure of quality of the match. Higher E-values indicate that BLAST found a less homologous sequence.
- **Score.** This shows the score of the local alignment generated through the BLAST search.
- **Bit score.** This shows the bit score of the local alignment generated through the BLAST search. Bit scores are normalized, which means that the bit scores from different alignments can be compared, even if different scoring matrices have been used.

- **Hit start.** Shows the start position in the hit sequence
- **Hit end.** Shows the end position in the hit sequence.
- **Hit length.** The length of the hit.
- **Query start.** Shows the start position in the query sequence.
- **Query end.** Shows the end position in the query sequence.
- **Identity.** Shows the number of identical residues in the query and hit sequence.
- **%Identity.** Shows the percentage of identical residues in the query and hit sequence.
- **Positive.** Shows the number of similar but not necessarily identical residues in the query and hit sequence.

In the **BLAST table** view you can handle the hit sequences. Select one or more sequences from the table, and apply one of the following functions.

- **NCBI.** Opens the corresponding sequence(s) at GenBank at NCBI. Here is stored additional information regarding the selected sequence(s). The default Internet browser is used for this purpose.
- **Open sequence.** Opens the selected sequence(s) in one or more sequence views.
- **Save sequence.** Downloads and saves the sequence without opening it.
- **Open structure.** If the hit sequence contain structure information, the sequence is opened in a text view or a 3D view (3D view in CLC Protein Workbench and CLC Combined Workbench).

You can do a text-based search in the information in the BLAST table by using the filter at the upper right part of the view. In this way you can search for e.g. species or other information which is typically included in the "Description" field.

The table is integrated with the graphical view described in section 12.3.2 so that selecting a hit in the table will make a selection on the corresponding sequence in the graphical view.

12.4 Create Local BLAST Database

In *CLC Combined Workbench* you can create a local database which you can use for local BLAST. Both DNA, RNA, and protein sequences can be used.

It is not necessary to import the sequences into *CLC Combined Workbench* before creating the database. The local database can be created from sequences which are stored in the **Navigation Area** or the sequences can be browsed from the computer's file system. In the latter case, the files must be in fasta (.fsa/.fa/.fasta) format.

To create a local BLAST data base from the file system or from the **Navigation Area**:

BLAST search in Toolbox ( ) | Create Local BLAST Database ( )

This opens the dialog seen in figure 12.12

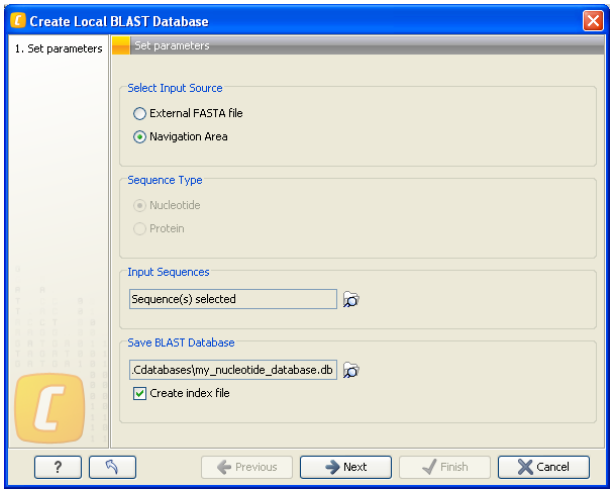

Figure 12.12: *Setting parameters for the local BLAST database.*

- **Select Input Source.** Lets you choose whether to include sequences from the **Navigation Area** or from the computer's file system (External FASTA file).
- **Sequence type.** If you choose to import sequences from an external FASTA file into the database, you must choose whether the sequences are nucleotide or protein sequences.
- **Input Sequences.** Depending on the choice of **Select Input Source** above, clicking the button will let you browse the **Navigation Area** or the external file system for the sequences which you want to include in the database.
- **Save BLAST database.** Lets you browse your external file system for a suitable place to save the database.

The location of the local database can be defined by the user but as default all databases are stored in the following locations:

- Windows: My Documents/CLCdatabases/<databasename.db>
- Mac: /users/username/<dabasename.db>
- Linux: /users/username/<dabasename.db>

Where <dabasename.db> is the name entered in the dialog in figure 12.13.

When a database is deleted from the navigation area in the workbench it is not deleted on the native file system. The location of the database can be seen in the history of the blast database.

Note! On some file systems there is a 2GB file size limit.

After having adjusted all these settings, click **Next**, which opens the dialog seen in figure 12.13

Click **Next** to complete the creation of the database.

12.4.1 Import of BLAST databases

Already existing databases can be imported to the workbench. Select to import .phr or the .nhr files which is a database for proteins and nucleotides, respectively. When a database is imported

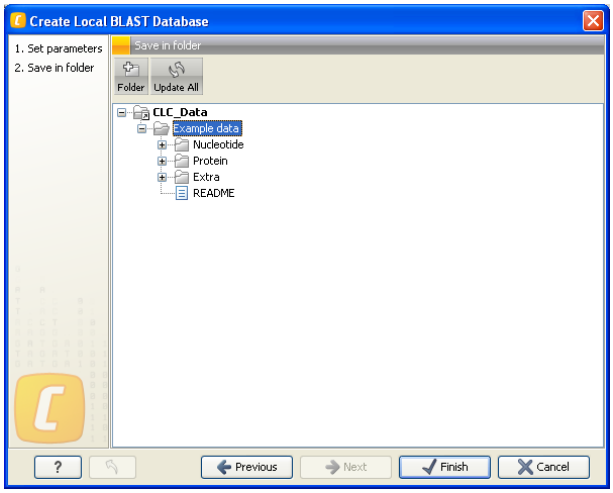

Figure 12.13: *Choose where the access point to your local BLAST database is saved in the Navigation Area.*

the blast database is not moved to the above mentioned locations. Thus it is possible to store a blast database on a shared network drive and access the same database through a number of workbenches.

12.5 SNP annotation using BLAST

CLC Combined Workbench can perform a BLAST search against the databases in the dbSNP database at NCBI (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/SNP). The dbSNP database is a central repository for both single base nucleotide substitutions (SNP's) and other types of small scale variations including e.g. short deletion- and insertion polymorphisms (DIP's) and short tandem repeats (STR's) - also termed micro-satellites. A BLAST search against dbSNP produces output similar to a regular nucleotide BLAST search against NCBI. However, when searching against dbSNP, *CLC Combined Workbench* also offers the user the possibility to transfer the found BLAST hits to the query sequence as variation annotation. This information can then be used to interpret experimental data or to design further experiments using either the primer designer functionality or the cloning editor of the program.

To annotate with SNP's:

select one or more nucleotide sequences | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | BLAST Search ( ) | SNP Annotation Using BLAST ( )

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements. When you have selected the desired sequences, click **Next**.

12.5.1 SNP annotation search parameters

In this step you can choose species and genome specific database for use in the BLAST search as shown in figure 12.14. The list of databases is available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/staff/tao/URLAPI/remote_accessible_blastdblist.html#8.

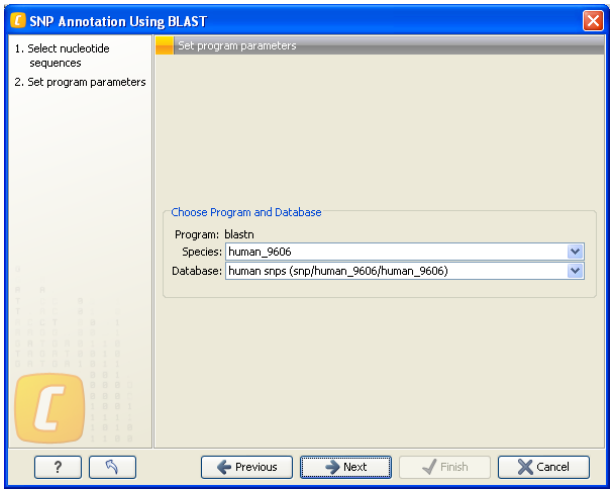

Figure 12.14: *Choosing species and database.*

- **Species.** The species from which the query database is constructed
- **Database.** Depending on the species, specific databases are available for subsets of the genome.

Click **Next** to go to the next step where you can set BLAST and annotation parameters as shown in figure 12.15.

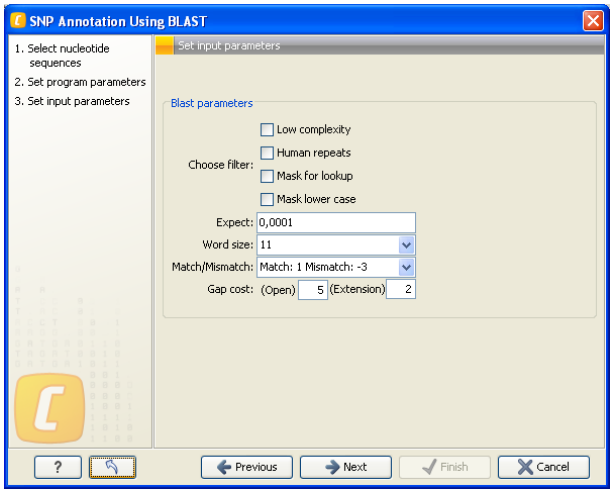

Figure 12.15: *Setting parameters for SNP BLAST.*

The top part of the parameters shown in 12.15 pertains to the BLAST algorithm and is described in section 12.1.

Click **Next** to go to the next step where you can choose how the output of the SNP Annotation Using BLAST should be displayed. There are three options as shown in figure 12.16.

- **Create overview BLAST table**. This will create one table containing and summarizing all the BLAST results. See section 12.3.1.
- **Create one BLAST result per query**. This will create a BLAST result for each query sequence which can be opened in a table (see section 12.3.3) or in the graphical alignment view (see section 12.3.2).

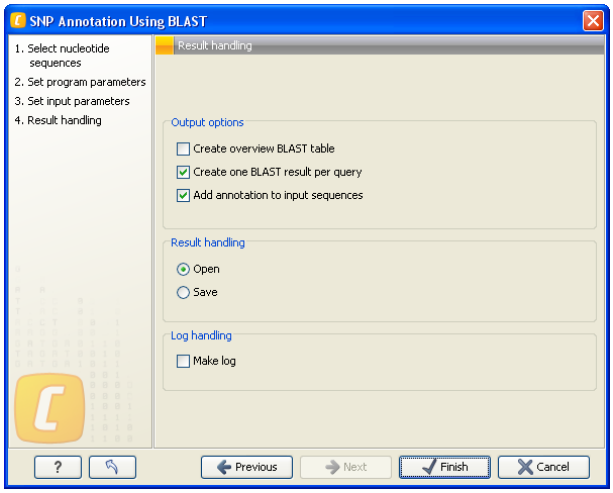

Figure 12.16: *Output options for.*

- **Add annotations to input sequences.** This will add the variation annotations found in the BLAST search to the sequence that was chosen in the first step. If multiple sequences where selected, a BLAST search is conducted for each of the sequences.

The first two options represent two different ways of showing the BLAST result, and if neither is selected, you will not be able to see and save the BLAST result. The result of the BLAST search is described more elaborately below.

12.5.2 Result of SNP annotation

The SNP BLAST hits

The graphical BLAST output of a SNP BLAST search is shown in figure 12.17:

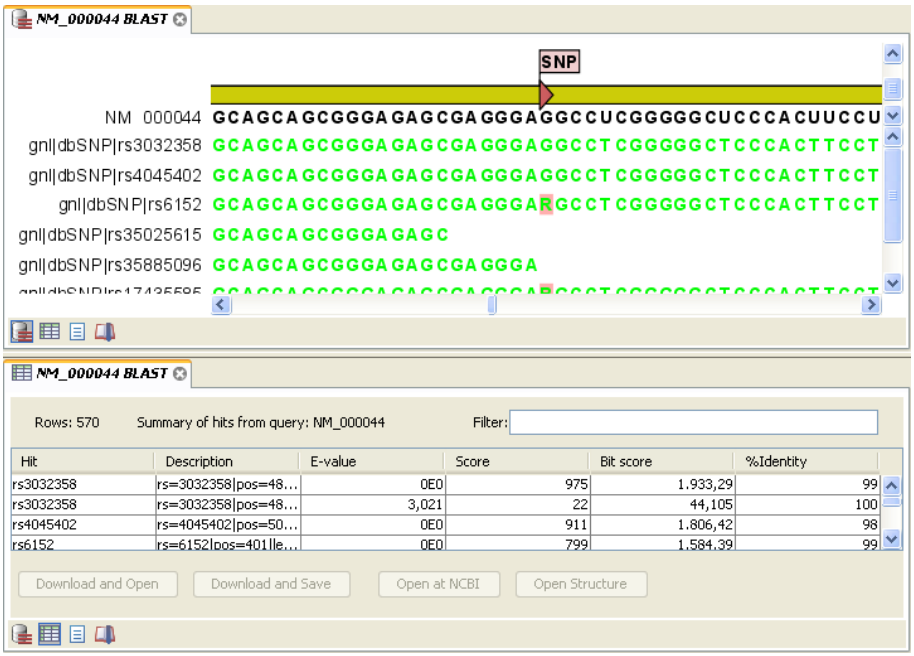

Figure 12.17: *The graphical and tabular view of the SNP BLAST.*

If the option of annotating with variation annotation was chosen, the query sequence in the BLAST search object is also annotated with the dbSNP hits which passed the set criteria. In the graphical editor auxiliary information about the hits are shown in a tooltip when the mouse is hovered on a hit sequence. In addition to the BLAST statistics, this includes the length of the original dbSNP sequence, the variation position, the database build and the type of the variation. This information is also available from the tabular view of the BLAST search.

The variation annotations on the sequence

When sequences are annotated with variation information as shown in figure 12.18 and 12.17 the type of variation is displayed in the name of the annotation. Furthermore, if genotype information is available this can be accessed in the tooltip shown when hovering the mouse on the annotation. If you show the sequence in the Annotation Table (see section 10.3.1), there is also a hyperlink to the NCBI web page describing the SNP annotation.

Figure 12.18: *A sequence annotated with SNP's.*

12.5.3 Bioinformatics explained: Single-Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)

Single-nucleotide polymorphisms can be defined as any single base substitution, e.g. the alteration from **AAGGCT** to **ATGGCT**. A single-nucleotide polymorphism is denoted SNP (pronounced "SNiP"), and represents a nucleotide variation in either coding or non-coding regions. SNPs can be further classified according to location and function - see figure 12.19.

SNPs are the most abundant type of genetic variation in the human genome, accounting for more that 90% of all differences between individuals [Collins et al., 1998], and single-nucleotide polymorphisms occur very frequently, once every 100-1000 bp in humans. Often higher frequencies of SNPs are observed in intronic and intergenic regions than in coding regions, and there are variations as great as 100-fold in SNP frequency in different regions of the genome.

Single-nucleotide polymorphisms can be disease-causing factors. It has for example been found that genetic variation in the gene encoding calpain-10 (CAPN10) is associated with non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, the most common form of diabetes worldwide affecting approximately 4% of the adult population [Horikawa et al., 2000].

SNPs can also be useful as genetic markers for e.g. association studies where relations between specific genetic variation and phenotypic appearance are mapped. The polymorphism must appear at a certain frequency to be useful as a genetic marker and for a single-nucleotide polymorphism to be considered a SNP, the less frequent allele must occur in population at a frequency rate of at least 1 percent [Brookes, 1999].

Association studies are expected to speed the discovery of disease related genes as it is much easier to get access to DNA samples from a random set of individuals in a population than it is to do traditional pedigree analysis. The research and results within genetic diseases are thereby expanding significantly along with the identification and characterization of SNPs and research

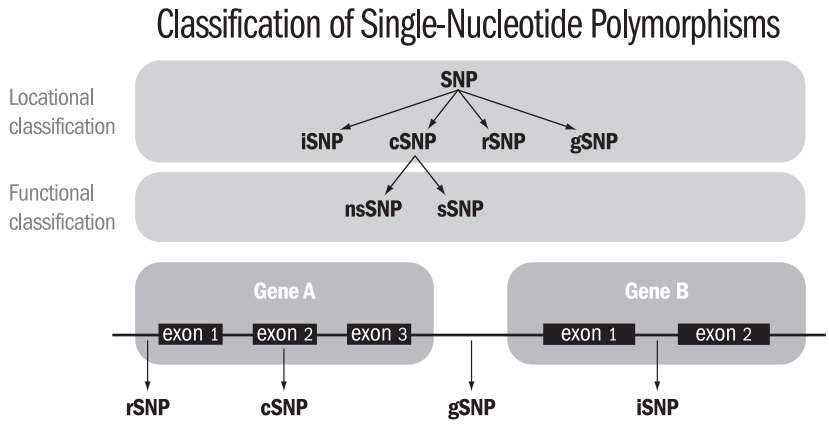

Figure 12.19: *According to their location in the genome, SNPs are classified as either iSNPs located in intronic regions, cSNPs in coding regions (exons), rSNPs in regulatory regions, and gSNPs located in intergenomic regions. cSNPs can either be represented as synonymous (s) or non-synonymous (ns) SNPs dependent on their influence. sSNPs represent triplets encoding the same amino acid before and after the polymorphism arise while nsSNPs on the other hand alters the encoded amino acid and may signal chain termination.*

within the identification and description of single-nucleotide polymorphisms is a growing area of research.

SNPs can be identified through e.g. direct DNA sequencing of PCR products followed by assembly and contig analysis, by array analysis, or by RT-PCR. After identification of SNPs, non-synonymous mutations (nsSNPs) and their possible impacts can be described according to different criteria such as translation from nucleotide to protein sequence and secondary structure prediction.

Other useful resources

SNP fact sheet:

http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/faq/snps.shtml

The Single-Nucleotide Polymorphism database, dbSNP:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/projects/SNP/

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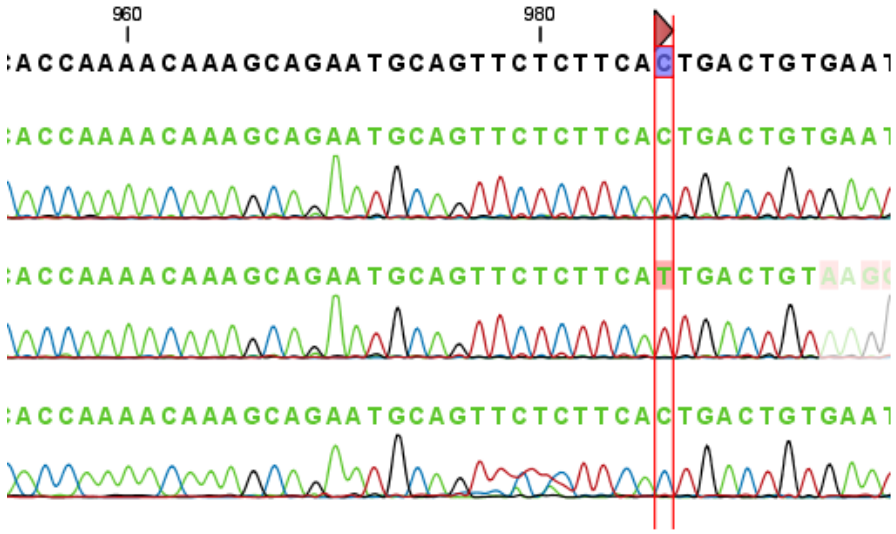

Figure 12.20: *Identification of single-nucleotide polymorphisms. In this illustration a C-T SNP is seen in position 986 of the sequence contig.*

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12.6 Bioinformatics explained: BLAST

BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool) has become the *defacto* standard in search and alignment tools [Altschul et al., 1990]. The BLAST algorithm is still actively being developed and is one of the most cited papers ever written in this field of biology. Many researchers use BLAST as an initial screening of their sequence data from the laboratory and to get an idea of what they are working on. BLAST is far from being basic as the name indicates; it is a highly advanced algorithm which has become very popular due to availability, speed, and accuracy. In short, a BLAST search identifies homologous sequences by searching one or more databases usually hosted by NCBI (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/), on the query sequence of interest [McGinnis and Madden, 2004].

BLAST is an open source program and anyone can download and change the program code. This has also given rise to a number of BLAST derivatives; WU-BLAST is probably the most commonly used [Altschul and Gish, 1996].

BLAST is highly scalable and comes in a number of different computer platform configurations which makes usage on both small desktop computers and large computer clusters possible.

12.6.1 Examples of BLAST usage

BLAST can be used for a lot of different purposes. A few of them are mentioned below.

- **Looking for species.** If you are sequencing DNA from unknown species, BLAST may help identify the correct species or homologous species.
- **Looking for domains.** If you BLAST a protein sequence (or a translated nucleotide sequence) BLAST will look for known domains in the query sequence.
- **Looking at phylogeny.** You can use the BLAST web pages to generate a phylogenetic tree of the BLAST result.
- **Mapping DNA to a known chromosome.** If you are sequencing a gene from a known species but have no idea of the chromosome location, BLAST can help you. BLAST will show you the position of the query sequence in relation to the hit sequences.
- **Annotations.** BLAST can also be used to map annotations from one organism to another or look for common genes in two related species.

12.6.2 Searching for homology

Most research projects involving sequencing of either DNA or protein have a requirement for obtaining biological information of the newly sequenced and maybe unknown sequence. If the researchers have no prior information of the sequence and biological content, valuable information can often be obtained using BLAST. The BLAST algorithm will search for homologous sequences in predefined and annotated databases of the users choice.

In an easy and fast way the researcher can gain knowledge of gene or protein function and find evolutionary relations between the newly sequenced DNA and well established data.

After the BLAST search the user will receive a report specifying found homologous sequences and their local alignments to the query sequence.

12.6.3 How does BLAST work?

BLAST identifies homologous sequences using a heuristic method which initially finds short matches between two sequences; thus, the method does not take the entire sequence space into account. After initial match, BLAST attempts to start local alignments from these initial matches. This also means that BLAST does not guarantee the optimal alignment, thus some sequence hits may be missed. In order to find optimal alignments, the Smith-Waterman algorithm should be used (see below). In the following, the BLAST algorithm is described in more detail.

Seeding

When finding a match between a query sequence and a hit sequence, the starting point is the *words* that the two sequences have in common. A word is simply defined as a number of letters. For blastp the default word size is 3 *W=3*. If a query sequence has a QWRTG, the searched words are QWR, WRT, RTG. See figure 12.21 for an illustration of words in a protein sequence.

During the initial BLAST seeding, the algorithm finds all common words between the query sequence and the hit sequence(s). Only regions with a word hit will be used to build on an alignment.

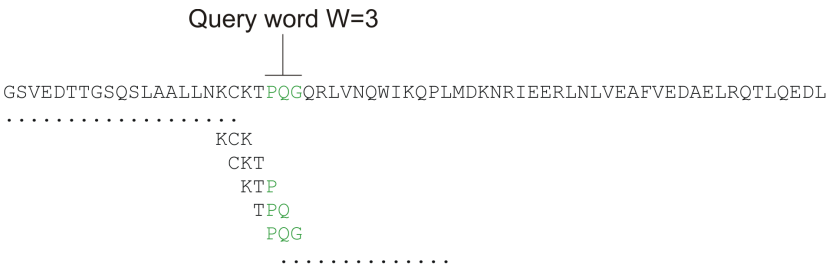

Figure 12.21: *Generation of exact BLAST words with a word size of W=3.*

BLAST will start out by making words for the entire query sequence (see figure 12.21). For each word in the query sequence, a compilation of neighborhood words, which exceed the threshold of *T*, is also generated.

A neighborhood word is a word obtaining a score of at least *T* when comparing, using a selected scoring matrix (see figure 12.22). The default scoring matrix for blastp is BLOSUM62 (for explanation of scoring matrices, see www.clcbio.com/be). The compilation of exact words and neighborhood words is then used to match against the database sequences.

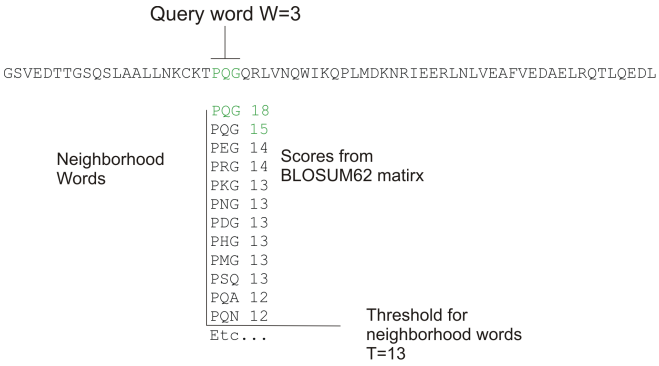

Figure 12.22: *Neighborhood BLAST words based on the BLOSUM62 matrix. Only words where the threshold* T *exceeds 13 are included in the initial seeding.*

After initial finding of words (seeding), the BLAST algorithm will extend the (only 3 residues long) alignment in both directions (see figure 12.23). Each time the alignment is extended, an alignment score is increases/decreased. When the alignment score drops below a predefined threshold, the extension of the alignment stops. This ensures that the alignment is not extended to regions where only very poor alignment between the query and hit sequence is possible. If the obtained alignment receives a score above a certain threshold, it will be included in the final BLAST result.

```
Query: 325 SLAALLNKCKTPQGQRLVNQWIKQPLMDKNRIEERLNLVEA     365
          +LA++L+   TP G R++ +W+  P+ D   + ER   + A
Sbjct: 290 TLASVLDCTVTPMGSRMLKRWLHMPVRDTRVLLERQQTIGA     330
```

Figure 12.23: *Blast aligning in both directions. The initial word match is marked green.*

By tweaking the word size *W* and the neighborhood word threshold *T*, it is possible to limit the search space. E.g. by increasing *T*, the number of neighboring words will drop and thus limit the search space as shown in figure 12.24.

This will increase the speed of BLAST significantly but may result in loss of sensitivity. Increasing

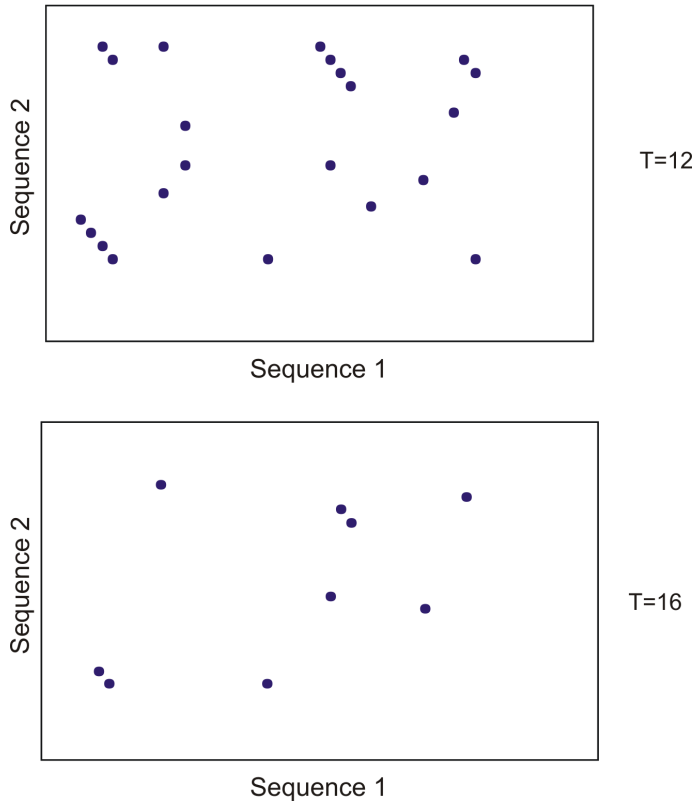

Figure 12.24: *Each dot represents a word match. Increasing the threshold of* T *limits the search space significantly.*

the word size *W* will also increase the speed but again with a loss of sensitivity.

12.6.4 Which BLAST program should I use?

Depending on the nature of the sequence it is possible to use different BLAST programs for the database search. There are five versions of the BLAST program, blastn, blastp, blastx, tblastn, tblastx:

Option	Query Type	DB Type	Comparison	Note
blastn	Nucleotide	Nucleotide	Nucleotide-Nucleotide	
blastp	Protein	Protein	Protein-Protein	
tblastn	Protein	Nucleotide	Protein-Protein	The database is translated into protein
blastx	Nucleotide	Protein	Protein-Protein	The queries are translated into protein
tblastx	Nucleotide	Nucleotide	Protein-Protein	The queries and database are translated into protein

The most commonly used method is to BLAST a nucleotide sequence against a nucleotide database (blastn) or a protein sequence against a protein database (blastp). But often another BLAST program will produce more interesting hits. E.g. if a nucleotide sequence is translated before the search, it is more likely to find better and more accurate hits than just a blastn search. One of the reasons for this is that protein sequences are evolutionarily more conserved than nucleotide sequences. Another good reason for translating the query sequence before the search

is that you get protein hits which are likely to be annotated. Thus you can directly see the protein function of the sequenced gene.

12.6.5 Which BLAST options should I change?

The NCBI BLAST web pages and the BLAST command line tool offer a number of different options which can be changed in order to obtain the best possible result. Changing these parameters can have a great impact on the search result. It is not the scope of this document to comment on all of the options available but merely the options which can be changed with a direct impact on the search result.

The E-value

The *expect value*(E-value) can be changed in order to limit the number of hits to the most significant ones. The lower the E-value, the better the hit. The E-value is dependent on the length of the query sequence and the size of the database. For example, an alignment obtaining an E-value of 0.05 means that there is a 5 in 100 chance of occurring by chance alone.

E-values are very dependent on the query sequence length and the database size. Short identical sequence may have a high E-value and may be regarded as "false positive" hits. This is often seen if one searches for short primer regions, small domain regions etc. The default threshold for the E-value on the BLAST web page is 10. Increasing this value will most likely generate more hits. Below are some rules of thumb which can be used as a guide but should be considered with common sense.

- **E-value < 10e-100** Identical sequences. You will get long alignments across the entire query and hit sequence.
- **10e-50 < E-value < 10e-100** Almost identical sequences. A long stretch of the query protein is matched to the database.
- **10e-10 < E-value < 10e-50** Closely related sequences, could be a domain match or similar.
- **1 < E-value < 10e-6** Could be a true homologue but it is a gray area.
- **E-value > 1** Proteins are most likely not related
- **E-value > 10** Hits are most likely junk unless the query sequence is very short.

Gap costs

For blastp it is possible to specify gap cost for the chosen substitution matrix. There is only a limited number of options for these parameters. The *open gap cost* is the price of introducing gaps in the alignment, and *extension gap cost* is the price of every extension past the initial opening gap. Increasing the gap costs will result in alignments with fewer gaps.

Filters

It is possible to set different filter options before running the BLAST search. Low-complexity regions have a very simple composition compared to the rest of the sequence and may result in

problems during the BLAST search [Wootton and Federhen, 1993]. A low complexity region of a protein can for example look like this 'fftfflllsss', which in this case is a region as part of a signal peptide. In the output of the BLAST search, low-complexity regions will be marked in lowercase gray characters (default setting). The low complexity region cannot be thought of as a significant match; thus, disabling the low complexity filter is likely to generate more hits to sequences which are not truly related.

Word size

Change of the word size has a great impact on the seeded sequence space as described above. But one can change the word size to find sequence matches which would otherwise not be found using the default parameters. For instance the word size can be decreased when searching for primers or short nucleotides. For blastn a suitable setting would be to decrease the default word size of 11 to 7, increase the E-value significantly (1000) and turn off the complexity filtering.

For blastp a similar approach can be used. Decrease the word size to 2, increase the E-value and use a more stringent substitution matrix, e.g. a PAM30 matrix.

Fortunately, the optimal search options for finding short, nearly exact matches can already be found on the BLAST web pages http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/.

Substitution matrix

For protein BLAST searches, a default substitution matrix is provided. If you are looking at distantly related proteins, you should either choose a high-numbered PAM matrix or a low-numbered BLOSUM matrix. See *Bioinformatics Explained* on scoring matrices on http://www.clcbio.com/be/. The default scoring matrix for blastp is BLOSUM62.

12.6.6 Explanation of the BLAST output

The BLAST output comes in different flavors. On the NCBI web page the default output is html, and the following description will use the html output as example. Ordinary text and xml output for easy computational parsing is also available.

The default layout of the NCBI BLAST result is a graphical representation of the hits found, a table of sequence identifiers of the hits together with scoring information, and alignments of the query sequence and the hits.

The graphical output (shown in figure 12.25) gives a quick overview of the query sequence and the resulting hit sequences. The hits are colored according to the obtained alignment scores.

The table view (shown in figure 12.26) provides more detailed information on each hit and furthermore acts as a hyperlink to the corresponding sequence in GenBank.

In the alignment view one can manually inspect the individual alignments generated by the BLAST algorithm. This is particularly useful for detailed inspection of the sequence hit found(sbjct) and the corresponding alignment. In the alignment view, all scores are described for each alignment, and the start and stop positions for the query and hit sequence are listed. The strand and orientation for query sequence and hits are also found here.

In most cases, the table view of the results will be easier to interpret than tens of sequence alignments.

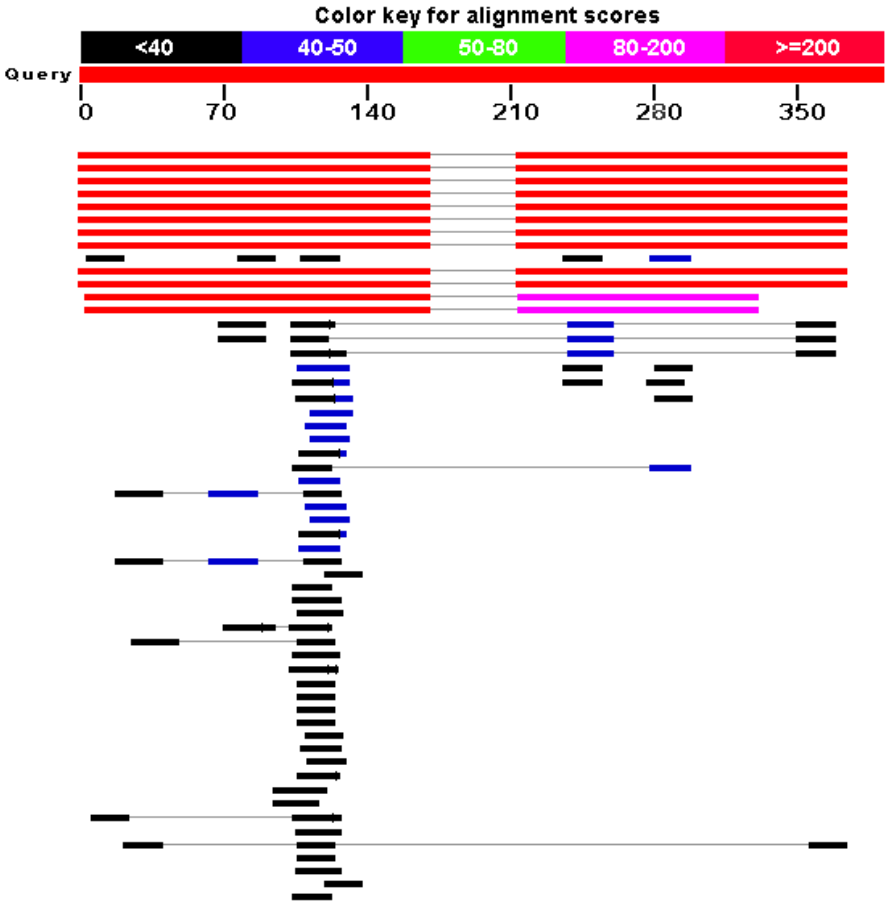

Figure 12.25: *BLAST graphical view. A simple graphical overview of the hits found aligned to the query sequence. The alignments are color coded ranging from black to red as indicated in the color label at the top.*

Sequences producing significant alignments:
(Click headers to sort columns)

Accession	Description	Max score	Total score	Query coverage	E value	Max ident	Links
Transcripts							
NM_174886.1	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_173210.1	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_173209.1	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_173211.1	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_173207.1	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_173208.1	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_170695.2	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_003244.2	Homo sapiens TGFB-induced factor (TALE family homeobox) (TGIF),	339	563	85%	1e-90	100%	U E G M
NM_003246.2	Homo sapiens thrombospondin 1 (THBS1), mRNA	38.2	38.2	4%	7.2	100%	U E G M
NM_177965.2	Homo sapiens chromosome 8 open reading frame 37 (C8orf37),	38.2	38.2	4%	7.2	100%	U E G M
Genomic sequences [show first]							
NT_010859.14	Homo sapiens chromosome 18 genomic contig, reference assembly	339	602	85%	1e-90	100%	
NW_926940.1	Homo sapiens chromosome 18 genomic contig, alternate assembly	339	602	85%	1e-90	100%	
NT_011109.15	Homo sapiens chromosome 19 genomic contig, reference assembly	262	375	73%	3e-67	94%	
NW_927217.1	Homo sapiens chromosome 19 genomic contig, alternate assembly	262	375	73%	3e-67	94%	

Figure 12.26: *BLAST table view. A table view with one row per hit, showing the accession number and description field from the sequence file together with BLAST output scores.*

12.6.7 I want to BLAST against my own sequence database, is this possible?

It is possible to download the entire BLAST program package and use it on your own computer, institution computer cluster or similar. This is preferred if you want to search in proprietary sequences or sequences unavailable in the public databases stored at NCBI. The downloadable BLAST package can either be installed as a web-based tool or as a command line tool. It is available for a wide range of different operating systems.

The BLAST package can be downloaded free of charge from the following location `http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/download.shtml`

Figure 12.27: *Alignment view of BLAST results. Individual alignments are represented together with BLAST scores and more.*

Pre-formatted databases are available from a dedicated BLAST ftp site `ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/db/`. Moreover, it is possible to download programs/scripts from the same site enabling automatic download of changed BLAST databases. Thus it is possible to schedule a nightly update of changed databases and have the updated BLAST database stored locally or on a shared network drive at all times. Most BLAST databases on the NCBI site are updated on a daily basis to include all recent sequence submissions to GenBank.

A few commercial software packages are available for searching your own data. The advantage of using a commercial program is obvious when BLAST is integrated with the existing tools of these programs. Furthermore, they let you perform BLAST searches and retain annotations on the query sequence (see figure 12.28). It is also much easier to batch download a selection of hit sequences for further inspection.

Figure 12.28: *Snippet of alignment view of BLAST results from CLC Combined Workbench. Individual alignments are represented directly in a graphical view. The top sequence is the query sequence and is shown with a selection of annotations.*

12.6.8 What you cannot get out of BLAST

Don't expect BLAST to produce the best available alignment. BLAST is a heuristic method which does not guarantee the best results, and therefor you cannot rely on BLAST if you wish to find *all* the hits in the database.

Instead, use the Smith-Waterman algorithm for obtaining the best possible local alignments [Smith and Waterman, 1981].

BLAST only makes local alignments. This means that a great but short hit in another sequence may not at all be related to the query sequence even though the sequences align well in a small region. It may be a domain or similar.

It is always a good idea to be cautious of the material in the database. For instance, the sequences may be wrongly annotated; hypothetical proteins are often simple translations of a found ORF on a sequenced nucleotide sequence and may not represent a true protein.

Don't expect to see the best result using the default settings. As described above, the settings should be adjusted according to the what kind of query sequence is used, and what kind of results you want. It is a good idea to perform the same BLAST search with different settings to get an idea of how they work. There is not a final answer on how to adjust the settings for your particular sequence.

12.6.9 Other useful resources

The BLAST web page hosted at NCBI
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST

Download pages for the BLAST programs
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/BLAST/download.shtml

Download pages for pre-formatted BLAST databases
ftp://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/db/

O'Reilly book on BLAST
http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/blast/

Explanation of scoring/substitution matrices and more
http://www.clcbio.com/be/

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Chapter 13

3D molecule viewing

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In order to understand protein function it is often valuable to see the actual three dimensional structure of the protein. This is of course only possible if the structure of the protein has been resolved and published. *CLC Combined Workbench* has an integrated viewer of structure files. Structure files are usually deposited at the Protein DataBank (PDB) www.rcsb.org, where protein structure files can be searched and downloaded.

13.1 Importing structure files

In order to view the three dimensional structure files there are different ways to import these. The supported file formats are PDB and mmCIF which both can be downloaded from the Protein DataBank (http://www.rcsb.org) and imported through the import menu (see section 7.1.1).

Another way to import structure files is if a structure file is found through a direct search at the GenBank structure database (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=Structure). Read more about search for structures in section 11.3.

It is also possible to make a BLAST search against the PDB database. In the latter case, structure files can be directly downloaded to the navigation area by clicking the **Open structure** button below all the BLAST hits. Downloading structure files from a conducted BLAST search is only possible if the results are shown in a BLAST table. (See figure 13.1). How to conduct a BLAST search can be seen in section 12.1.

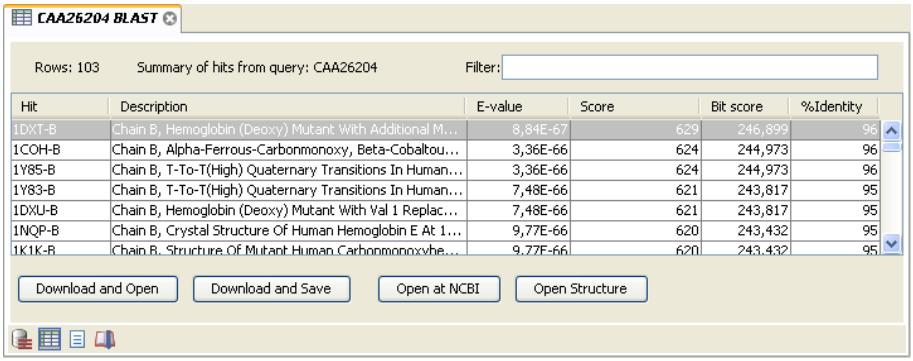

Figure 13.1: *It is possible to open a structure file directly from the output of a conducted BLAST search by clicking the Open Structure button.*

13.2 Viewing structure files

The usual view area is used to display the actual structure (See figure 13.2 for an example of the structure view). At the bottom of the view area you will find a table displaying the polymer subunits of the structure along with additional compounds and in some cases water molecules. It is possible to copy polymer sequence information to the navigator area for further sequence analysis by the integrated workbench tools. To view the contents of a polymer subunit, right-click on the relevant table row and select **Open Sequence**. The newly opened view can be dragged onto the navigation area for further analysis.

Structures can be rotated and moved using the mouse and keyboard. **Pan mode** ( ) must be enabled in order to rotate and move the sequence. When changing to the 3D view a dialog box with the option of shifting to **pan mode** is displayed if **Selection** mode is enabled.

Note! It is only possible to view one structure file at a time, in order to limit the amount of memory used.

13.2.1 Moving and rotating

Structure files are simply rotated by holding down the left mouse button while moving the mouse. This will rotate the structure in the direction the mouse is moved. The structures can be freely rotated in all directions.

Holding down the Ctrl on Windows or ⌘ on Mac key on the keyboard while dragging the mouse moves the structure in the direction the mouse is moved. This is particularly useful if the view is zoomed to cover only a small region of the protein structure.

Zoom in ( ) and zoom out ( ) on the structure is done by selecting the appropriate zoom tool in the toolbar and clicking with the mouse on the view area. Alternatively, click and hold the left mouse button while using either zoom tool and move the mouse up or down to zoom out or in

respectively. The view can be restored to display the entire structure by clicking the **Fit width** ( ) button on the toolbar (read more about zooming in section 3.3).

- **Rotate mode**
  The structure is rotated when the "Pan mode" ( ) is selected in the toolbar. If the "pan mode" is not enabled on the first view of a structure a warning is shown.

- **Zoom mode**
  Use the zoom buttons on the toolbar to enable zoom mode. A single click with the mouse will zoom slightly on the structure. Moreover, it is possible to zoom in and out on the structure by keeping the left mouse button pressed while moving the mouse up and down.

- **Move mode**
  It is possible to move the structure from side to side if the Ctrl key on Windows and ⌘ key on Mac is pressed while dragging with the mouse.

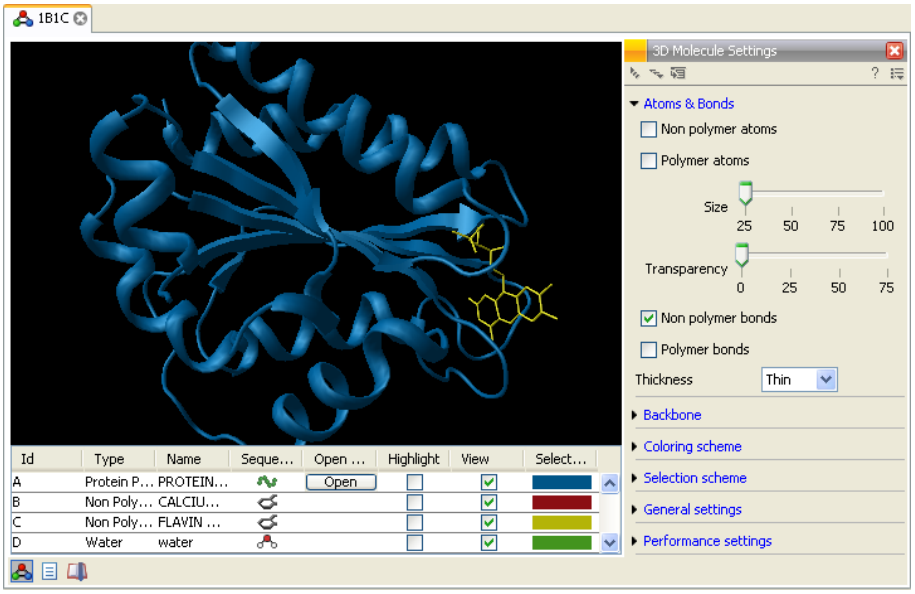

Figure 13.2: *3D view. Structure files can be opened, viewed and edited in several ways.*

13.3 The structure table

Below the structure view you will find a table presenting information on the protein or nucleic acid subunits along with any compounds complexed with the protein in the resolved structure.

13.3.1 Identification

ID specifies an identifier for the subunit or compound as specified by the PDF or mmCIF record, while **Type** specifies the nature of the compound in question. Protein chains and RNA/DNA chains are specified as **Polymers**, while all other molecules, including water, are specified as **Non-Polymers**. The **Name** of the compound is also displayed as specified by the PDB or mmCIF record. The **ID** is appended to the structure identifier when opening sequence information (see below).

13.3.2 Opening sequence information

Only **Polymer** sequences can be opened in a sequence view. This is done by right-clicking the appropriate table element and selecting **Open Sequence**. Editing a sequence directly is not allowed in order to preserve consistency between the displayed 3D structure and the sequence.

A number of analyses can be performed on the sequence when it is opened in a new view. Eg. finding Pfam domains or motifs which can be added to the sequences as any other annotation. If amino acids in the sequence view are colored in gray, they are not present in the structure view. A structure file imported into the Workbench often carries linear sequence data which is not present in the structure data, and this is indicated by the gray color.

The sequence is named according to the structure, with the ID of the subunit appended. For example, the A chain of the structure with the ID 1A00 will be named *1A00-A*. Brackets around the name indicate the child-parent relationship.

Selection on the sequence

If you select a part of the sequence in the sequence view, it will be mirrored in the 3D structure using one of two selection schemes. Most structure files allow a well-defined mapping between sequence and structure, but in some cases an unambiguous mapping is not possible. In these cases, a dialog is presented to the user when the structure is opened stating the problem. Sequence selection may be disabled in some cases.

13.3.3 Display and coloring options

Individual subunits, polymer as well as non-polymer, may be switched on and off in the 3D view using the **View in 3D** checkbox. Also, when using the Entity coloring mode (see below), the colors of individual subunits may be specified by the user using the **Select Entity Color** color choosers.

13.4 Options through the preference panel

The view of the structure can be changed in several ways. All graphical changes are carried out through the **Side Panel**. All options in the **Side Panel** are described below.

13.4.1 Atoms & Bonds

- **Non Polymer Atoms.** Show the individual atoms of non-polymer molecules as ball shaped structures. Atom size and transparency can be varied by using the sliders (see figure 13.2) The size represents the % of van der Waals radii.
- **Polymer Atoms.** Show the individual atoms of the protein chain as ball shaped structures. Atom sizes and transparency can be varied by using the sliders (see figure 13.2).
- **Non Polymer Bonds.** Show bonds between atoms in non-polymer compounds. The width of the bond can be selected from the drop-down box.
- **Polymer Bonds.** Show bonds between polymer atoms. The width of the bond can be selected from the drop-down box.

13.4.2 Backbone

- **None.** The structure is displayed without any special indication of the backbone.
- **Cartoon.** Show the backbone on proteins as cartoon drawings. When using this view it is possible to see alpha helices-and beta-sheets.
- **Backbone.** The alpha-carbon atoms are connected by thick bonds.

13.4.3 Coloring

Atoms, bonds and cartoon elements are colored individually according to the list below. For the Atom Type scheme, the coloring scheme (CPK) is adapted from the visualization tool Rasmol.

- **Atom type**
  Color the atoms individually.
  - **Carbon**: Light grey
  - **Oxygen**: Red
  - **Hydrogen**: White
  - **Nitrogen**: Light blue
  - **Sulphur**: Yellow
  - **Chlorine, Boron**: Green
  - **Phosphorus, Iron, Barium**: Orange
  - **Sodium**: Blue
  - **Magnesium**: Forest green
  - **Zn, Cu, Ni, Br**: Brown
  - **Ca, Mn, Al, Ti, Cr, Ag**: Dark grey
  - **F, Si, Au**: Goldenrod
  - **Iodine**: Purple
  - **Lithium**: firebrick
  - **Helium**: Pink
  - **Other**: Deep pink
- **Entities.** This will color protein subunits and additional structures individually. Using the view table, the user may select which colors are used to color subunits.
- **Rainbow.** This color mode will color the structure with rainbow colors along the sequence.
- **Secondary structure.** The structure is colored according to secondary structures. Alpha helices are colored light blue, while beta sheets are colored light green. All other atoms are colored grey.

13.4.4 Selection scheme

When a polymer sequence from a structure is opened, selections made on the sequence will be mirrored by the 3D elements of the structure. The selection scheme specifies how atoms are highlighted.

- **Inverse Transparency.** Non-selected elements are rendered transparent while highlighted atoms will retain their original appearance. This scheme is useful for large, complex molecules, or for selections deep within the molecule. Note that the transparency slider is not functional when this scheme is set.
- **Uniform Color.** All selected elements are colored yellow.

13.4.5 General settings

- **Show table.** The table containing sequence information etc. may be turned off using this checkbox.
- **Background color.** The background color may be changed using this color chooser. Default color is black.

13.4.6 Performance settings

- **Cartoon as wireframe.** If the selected drawing method is cartoon selecting this checkbox will render the drawing in a wireframe mode .
- **Anti-aliasing on wireframe.** Enable anti-aliasing.
- **Rendering quality.** You may specify the image quality by using the dropdown list. Lower quality images render faster, but may not display well under high zoom factors.

13.5 3D Output

The output of the 3D viewer is rendered on the screen in real time and changes to the preferences are visible immediately. From *CLC Combined Workbench* you can export the visible part of the 3D view to different graphic formats, by pressing the **Graphics** button ( ) on the **Menu bar**. This will allow you to export in the following formats:

Format	Suffix	Type
Portable Network Graphics	.png	bitmap
JPEG	.jpg	bitmap
Tagged Image File	.tif	bitmap
PostScript	.ps	vector graphics
Encapsulated PostScript	.eps	vector graphics
Portable Document Format	.pdf	vector graphics
Scalable Vector Graphics	.svg	vector graphics

Printing is not fully implemented with the 3D editor. Should you wish to print a 3D view, this can be done by either exporting to a graphics format and printing that or use the scheme below.

Windows:

- Adjust your 3D view in *CLC Combined Workbench*
- Press **Print Screen** on your keyboard (or **Alt + Print Screen**)
- Paste the result into an 'image editor' e.g. Paint or GIMP http://www.gimp.org/
- Crop (edit the screenshot)
- Save in your preferred file format and/or print

Mac:

- Set up your 3D view
- Press ⌘ **+ shift + 3** (or ⌘ **+ shift + 4**) (to take screen shot)
- Open the saved file (.pdf or .png) in a 'image editor' e.g. GIMP http://www.gimp.org/
- Crop (edit the screenshot)
- Save in your preferred file format and/or print

Linux:

- Set up your 3D view
- e.g. use GIMP to take the screen shot http://www.gimp.org/
- Crop (edit the screenshot)
- Save in your preferred file format and/or print

Chapter 14

General sequence analyses

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CLC Combined Workbench offers different kinds of sequence analyses, which apply to both protein and DNA. The analyses are described in this chapter.

14.1 Shuffle sequence

In some cases, it is beneficial to shuffle a sequence. This is an option in the **Toolbox** menu under **General Sequence Analyses**. It is normally used for statistical analyses, e.g. when comparing an alignment score with the distribution of scores of shuffled sequences.

Shuffling a sequence removes all annotations that relate to the residues.

select sequence | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | General Sequence Analyses ( ) | Shuffle Sequence ( )

or **right-click a sequence** | **Toolbox** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Shuffle Sequence** ( )

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 14.1:

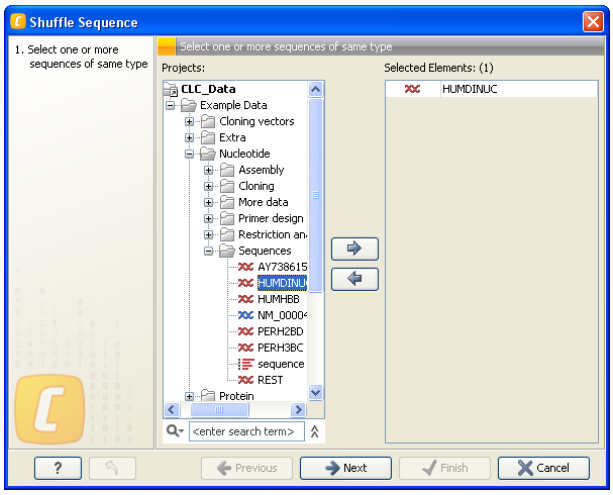

Figure 14.1: *Choosing sequence for shuffling.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Click **Next** to determine how the shuffling should be performed.

In this step, shown in figure 14.2: For nucleotides, the following parameters can be set:

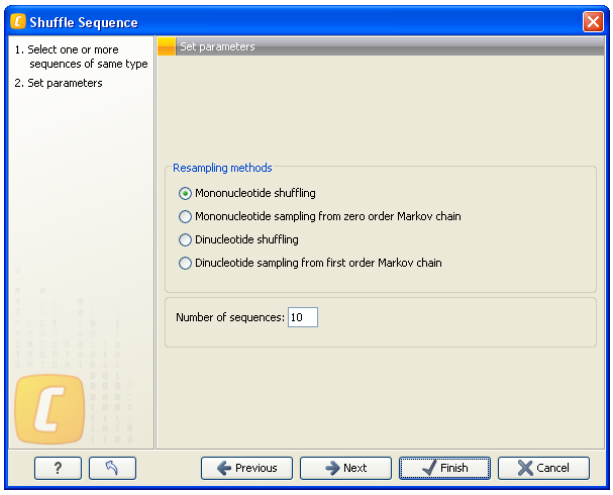

Figure 14.2: *Parameters for shuffling.*

- **Mononucleotide shuffling.** Shuffle method generating a sequence of the exact same mononucleotide frequency
- **Dinucleotide shuffling.** Shuffle method generating a sequence of the exact same dinucleotide frequency
- **Mononucleotide sampling from zero order Markov chain.** Resampling method generating a sequence of the same expected mononucleotide frequency.

- **Dinucleotide sampling from first order Markov chain.** Resampling method generating a sequence of the same expected dinucleotide frequency.

For proteins, the following parameters can be set:

- **Single amino acid shuffling.** Shuffle method generating a sequence of the exact same amino acid frequency.
- **Single amino acid sampling from zero order Markov chain.** Resampling method generating a sequence of the same expected single amino acid frequency.
- **Dipeptide shuffling.** Shuffle method generating a sequence of the exact same dipeptide frequency.
- **Dipeptide sampling from first order Markov chain.** Resampling method generating a sequence of the same expected dipeptide frequency.

For further details of these algorithms, see [Clote et al., 2005]. In addition to the shuffle method, you can specify the number of randomized sequences to output.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

This will open a new view in the **View Area** displaying the shuffled sequence. The new sequence is not saved automatically. To save the sequence, drag it into the **Navigation Area** or press ctrl + S (⌘ + S on Mac) to activate a save dialog.

14.2 Dot plots

Dot plots provide a powerful visual comparison of two sequences. Dot plots can also be used to compare regions of similarity within a sequence. This chapter first describes how to create and second how to adjust the view of the plot.

14.2.1 Create dot plots

A dot plot is a simple, yet intuitive way of comparing two sequences, either DNA or protein, and is probably the oldest way of comparing two sequences [Maizel and Lenk, 1981]. A dot plot is a 2 dimensional matrix where each axis of the plot represents one sequence. By sliding a fixed size window over the sequences and making a sequence match by a dot in the matrix, a diagonal line will emerge if two identical (or very homologous) sequences are plotted against each other. Dot plots can also be used to visually inspect sequences for direct or inverted repeats or regions with low sequence complexity. Various smoothing algorithms can be applied to the dot plot calculation to avoid noisy background of the plot. Moreover, can various substitution matrices be applied in order to take the evolutionary distance of the two sequences into account.

To create a dot plot:

Toolbox | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Create Dot Plot** ( )

or **Select one or two sequences in the Navigation Area** | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Create Dot Plot** ( )

or **Select one or two sequences in the Navigation Area** | **right-click in the Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Create Dot Plot** ( )

This opens the dialog shown in figure 14.3.

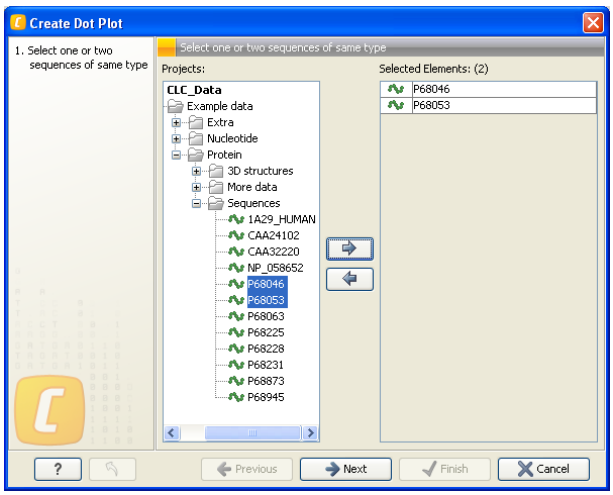

Figure 14.3: *Selecting sequences for the dot plot.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the **Toolbox** action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove elements from the selected elements. Click **Next** to adjust dot plot parameters. Clicking **Next** opens the dialog shown in figure 14.4.

Notice! Calculating dot plots take up a considerable amount of memory in the computer. Therefore, you see a warning if the sum of the number of nucleotides/amino acids in the sequences is higher than 8000. If you insist on calculating a dot plot with more residues the Workbench may shut down, allowing you to save your work first. However, this depends on your computer's memory configuration.

Adjust dot plot parameters

There are two parameters for calculating the dot plot:

- **Distance correction (only valid for protein sequences)** In order to treat evolutionary transitions of amino acids, a distance correction measure can be used when calculating the dot plot. These distance correction matrices (substitution matrices) take into account the likeliness of one amino acid changing to another.
- **Window size** A residue by residue comparison (window size = 1) would undoubtedly result in a very noisy background due to a lot of similarities between the two sequences of interest. For DNA sequences the background noise will be even more dominant as a match between only four nucleotide is very likely to happen. Moreover, a residue by residue comparison (window size = 1) can be very time consuming and computationally demanding. Increasing the window size will make the dot plot more 'smooth'.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

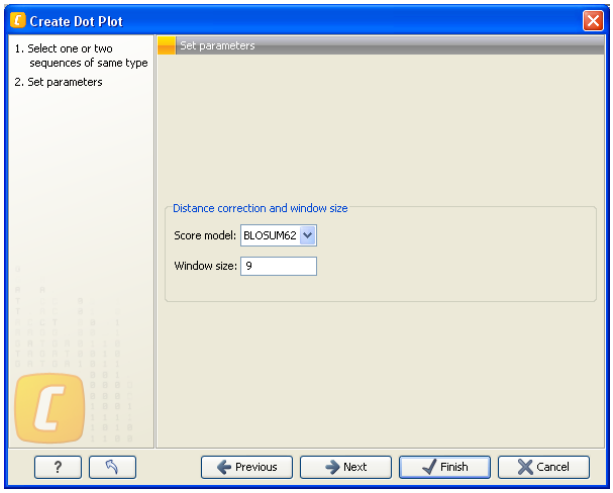

Figure 14.4: *Setting the dot plot parameters.*

14.2.2 View dot plots

A view of a dot plot can be seen in figure 14.5. You can select **Zoom in** ( ) in the Toolbar and click the dot plot to zoom in to see the details of particular areas.

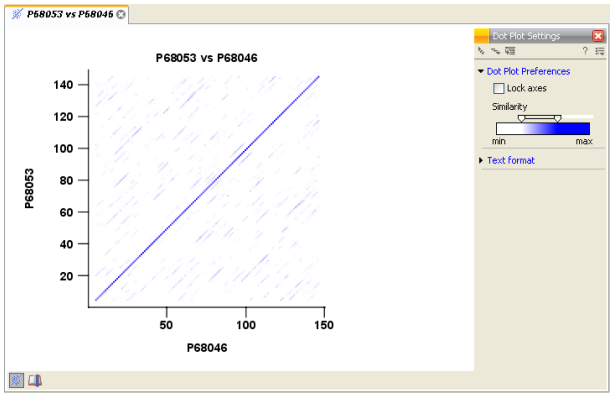

Figure 14.5: *A view is opened showing the dot plot.*

The **Side Panel** to the right let you specify the dot plot preferences. The gradient color box can be adjusted to get the appropriate result by dragging the small pointers at the top of the box. Moving the slider from the right to the left lowers the thresholds which can be directly seen in the dot plot, where more diagonal lines will emerge. You can also choose another color gradient by clicking on the gradient box and choose from the list.

Adjusting the sliders above the gradient box is also practical, when producing an output for printing. (Too much background color might not be desirable). By crossing one slider over the other (the two sliders change side) the colors are inverted, allowing for a white background. (If you choose a color gradient, which includes white). Se figure 14.5.

14.2.3 Bioinformatics explained: Dot plots

Realization of dot plots

Dot plots are two-dimensional plots where the x-axis and y-axis each represents a sequence and the plot itself shows a comparison of these two sequences by a calculated score for each

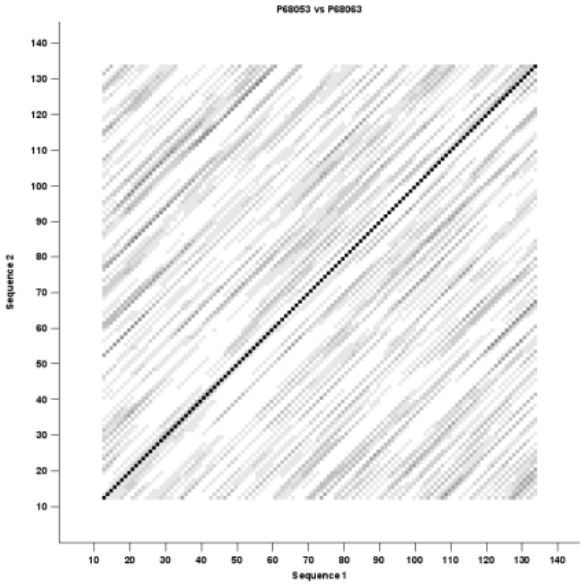

Figure 14.6: *Dot plot with inverted colors, practical for printing.*

position of the sequence. If a window of fixed size on one sequence (one axis) match to the other sequence a dot is drawn at the plot. Dot plots are one of the oldest methods for comparing two sequences [Maizel and Lenk, 1981].

The scores that are drawn on the plot are affected by several issues.

- Scoring matrix for distance correction.
  Scoring matrices (BLOSUM and PAM) contain substitution scores for every combination of two amino acids. Thus, these matrices can only be used for dot plots of protein sequences.
- Window size
  The single residue comparison (bit by bit comparison(window size = 1)) in dot plots will undoubtedly result in a noisy background of the plot. You can imagine that there are many successes in the comparison if you only have four possible residues like in nucleotide sequences. Therefore you can set a window size which is smoothing the dot plot. Instead of comparing single residues it compares subsequences of length set as window size. The score is now calculated with respect to aligning the subsequences.
- Threshold
  The dot plot shows the calculated scores with colored threshold. Hence you can better recognize the most important similarities.

Examples and interpretations of dot plots

Contrary to simple sequence alignments dot plots can be a very useful tool for spotting various evolutionary events which may have happened to the sequences of interest.

Below is shown some examples of dot plots where sequence insertions, low complexity regions, inverted repeats etc. can be identified visually.

Similar sequences

The most simple example of a dot plot is obtained by plotting two homologous sequences of interest. If very similar or identical sequences are plotted against each other a diagonal line will occur.

The dot plot in figure 14.7 shows two related sequences of the Influenza A virus nucleoproteins infecting ducks and chickens. Accession numbers from the two sequences are: DQ232610 and DQ023146. Both sequences can be retrieved directly from `http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gquery/gquery.fcgi`.

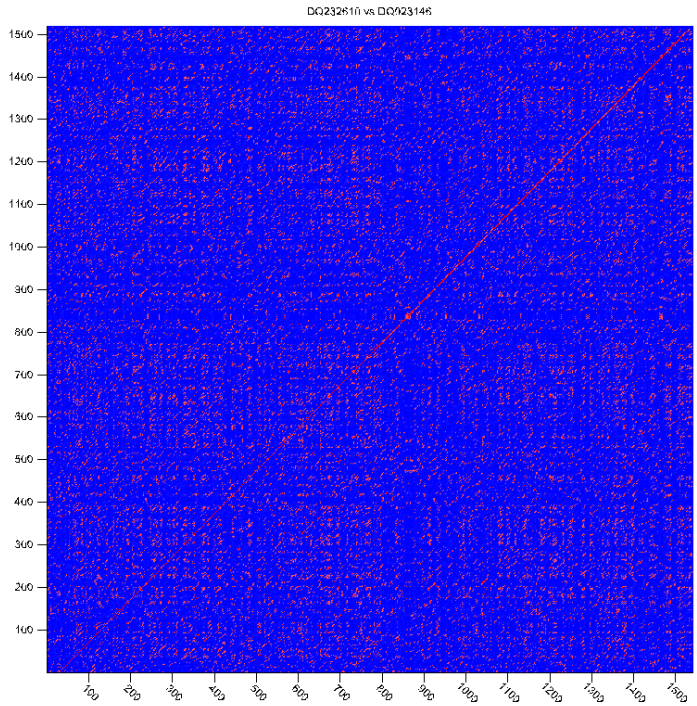

Figure 14.7: *Dot plot of DQ232610 vs. DQ023146 (Influenza A virus nucleoproteins) showing and overall similarity*

Repeated regions

Sequence repeats can also be identified using dot plots. A repeat region will typically show up as lines parallel to the diagonal line.

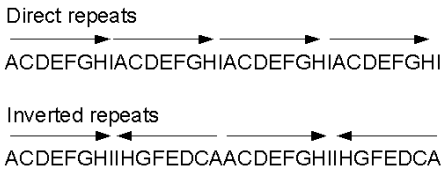

Figure 14.8: *Direct and inverted repeats shown on an amino acid sequence generated for demonstration purposes.*

If the dot plot shows more than one diagonal in the same region of a sequence, the regions depending to the other sequence are repeated. In figure 14.9 you can see a sequence with repeats.

Frame shifts

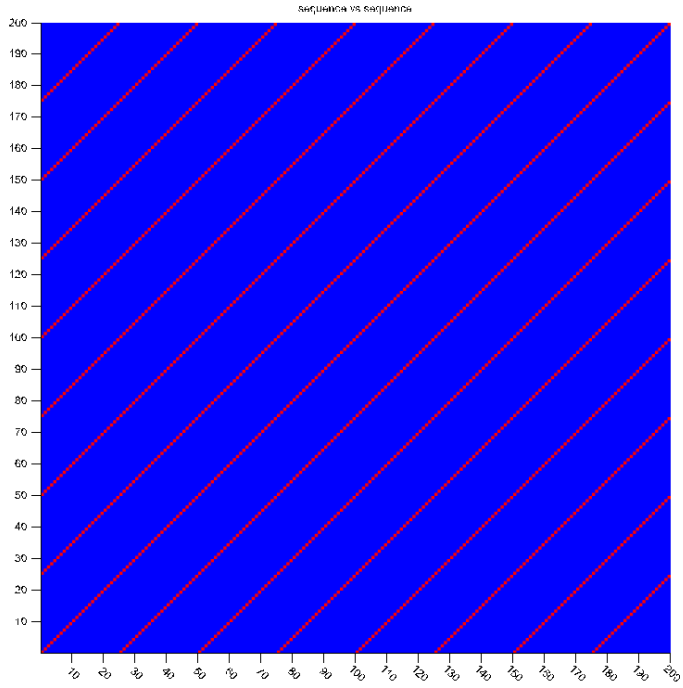

Figure 14.9: *The dot plot of a sequence showing repeated elements. See also figure 14.8.*

Frame shifts in a nucleotide sequence can occur due to insertions, deletions or mutations. Such frame shifts can be visualized in a dot plot as seen in figure 14.10. In this figure, three frame shifts for the sequence on the y-axis are found.

1. Deletion of nucleotides
2. Insertion of nucleotides
3. Mutation (out of frame)

Sequence inversions

In dot plots you can see an inversion of sequence as contrary diagonal to the diagonal showing similarity. In figure 14.11 you can see a dot plot (window length is 3) with an inversion.

Low-complexity regions

Low-complexity regions in sequences can be found as regions around the diagonal all obtaining a high score. Low complexity regions are calculated from the redundancy of amino acids within a limited region [Wootton and Federhen, 1993]. These are most often seen as short regions of only a few different amino acids. In the middle of figure 14.12 is a square shows the low-complexity region of this sequence.

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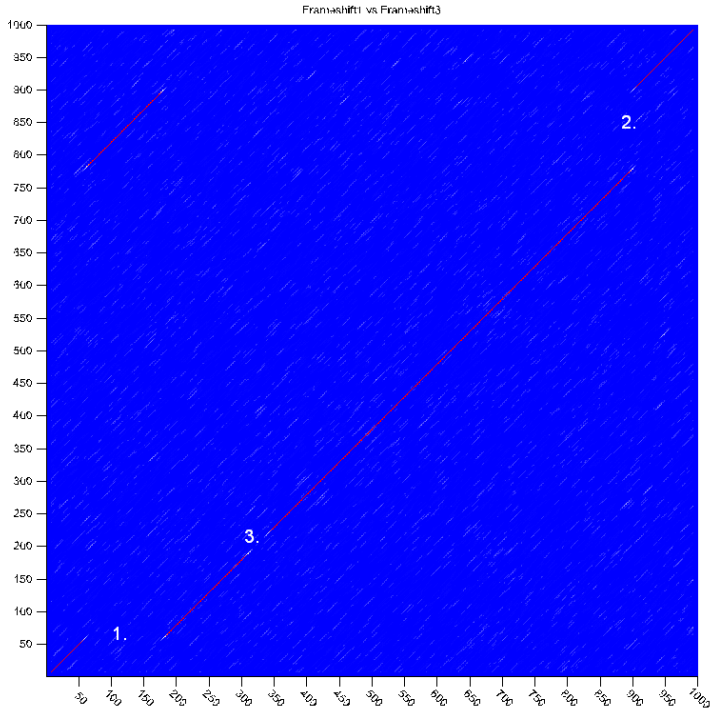

Figure 14.10: *This dot plot show various frame shifts in the sequence. See text for details.*

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14.2.4 Bioinformatics explained: Scoring matrices

Biological sequences have evolved throughout time and evolution has shown that not all changes to a biological sequence is equally likely to happen. Certain amino acid substitutions (change of one amino acid to another) happen often, whereas other substitutions are very rare. For instance, tryptophan (W) which is a relatively rare amino acid, will only — on very rare occasions — mutate into a leucine (L).

Based on evolution of proteins it became apparent that these changes or substitutions of amino acids can be modeled by a scoring matrix also refereed to as a substitution matrix. See an example of a scoring matrix in table 14.1. This matrix lists the substitution scores of every single amino acid. A score for an aligned amino acid pair is found at the intersection of the corresponding column and row. For example, the substitution score from an arginine (R) to a lysine (K) is 2. The diagonal show scores for amino acids which have not changed. Most substitutions changes have a negative score. Only rounded numbers are found in this matrix.

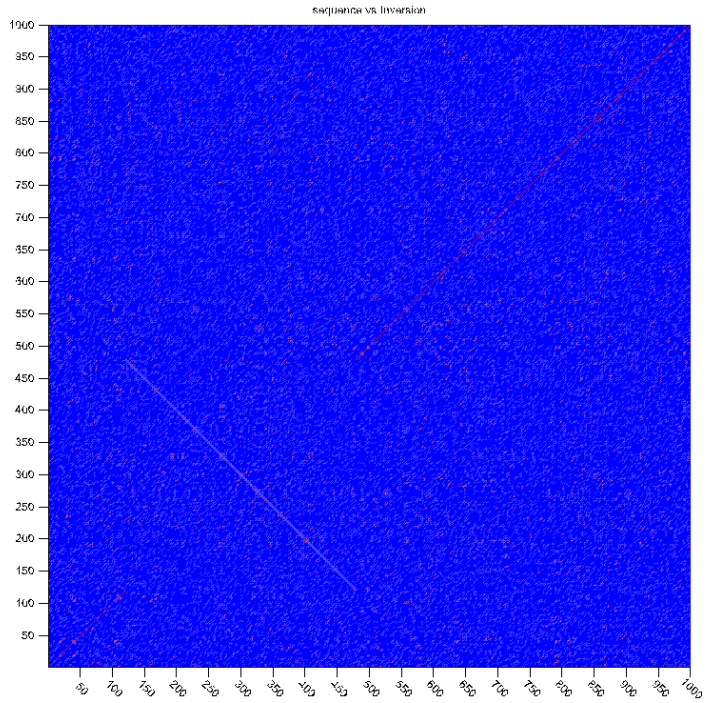

Figure 14.11: *The dot plot showing a inversion in a sequence. See also figure 14.8.*

The two most used matrices are the BLOSUM [Henikoff and Henikoff, 1992] and PAM [Dayhoff and Schwartz, 1978].

Different scoring matrices

PAM

The first PAM matrix (Point Accepted Mutation) was published in 1978 by Dayhoff et al. The PAM matrix was build through a global alignment of related sequences all having sequence similarity above 85% [Dayhoff and Schwartz, 1978]. A PAM matrix shows the probability that any given amino acid will mutate into another in a given time interval. As an example, PAM1 gives that one amino acid out of a 100 will mutate in a given time interval. In the other end of the scale, a PAM256 matrix, gives the probability of 256 mutations in a 100 amino acids (see figure 14.13).

There are some limitation to the PAM matrices which makes the BLOSUM matrices somewhat more attractive. The dataset on which the initial PAM matrices were build is very old by now, and the PAM matrices assume that all amino acids mutate at the same rate - this is not a correct assumption.

BLOSUM

In 1992, 14 years after the PAM matrices were published, the BLOSUM matrices (BLOcks SUbstitution Matrix) were developed and published [Henikoff and Henikoff, 1992].

Henikoff et al. wanted to model more divergent proteins, thus they used locally aligned sequences where none of the aligned sequences share less than 62% identity. This resulted in a scoring matrix´called BLOSUM62. In contrast to the PAM matrices the BLOSUM matrices are calculated from alignments without gaps emerging from the BLOCKS database `http:`

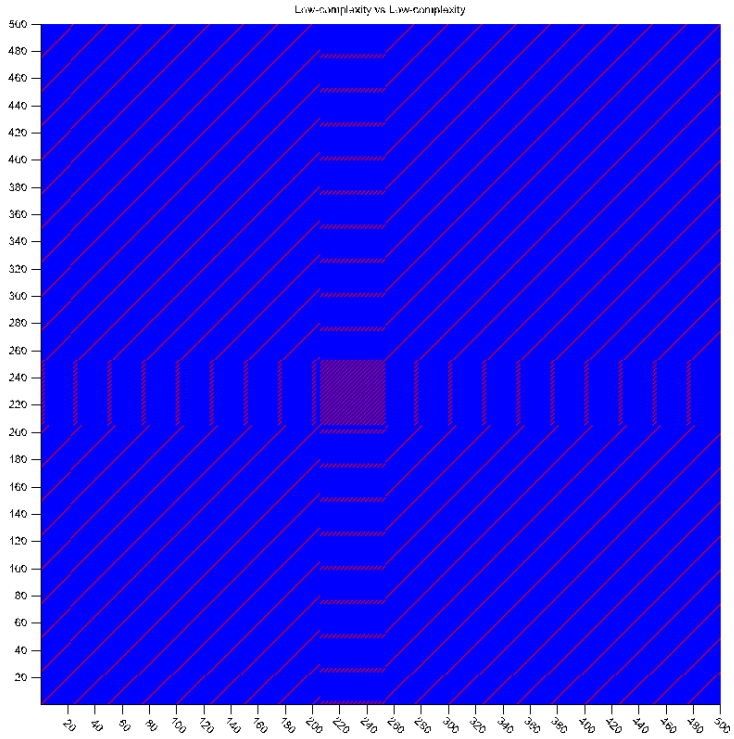

Figure 14.12: *The dot plot showing a low-complexity region in the sequence. The sequence is artificial and low complexity regions does not always show as a square.*

`//blocks.fhcrc.org/`.

Sean Eddy recently wrote a paper reviewing the BLOSUM62 substitution matrix and how to calculate the scores [Eddy, 2004].

Use of scoring matrices

Deciding which scoring matrix you should use in order of obtain the best alignment results is a difficult task. If you have no prior knowledge on the sequence the BLOSUM62 is probably the best choice. This matrix has become the *de facto* standard for scoring matrices and is also used as the default matrix in BLAST searches. The selection of a "wrong" scoring matrix will most probable strongly influence on the outcome of the analysis. In general a few rules apply to the selection of scoring matrices.

- For closely related sequences choose BLOSUM matrices created for highly similar alignments, like BLOSUM80. You can also select low PAM matrices such as PAM1.
- For distant related sequences, select low BLOSUM matrices (for example BLOSUM45) or high PAM matrices such as PAM250.

The BLOSUM matrices with low numbers correspond to PAM matrices with high numbers. (See figure 14.13) for correlations between the PAM and BLOSUM matrices. To summarize, if you want to find distant related proteins to a sequence of interest using BLAST, you could benefit of using BLOSUM45 or similar matrices.

	A	R	N	D	C	Q	E	G	H	I	L	K	M	F	P	S	T	W	Y	V
A	4	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-1	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	0	-3	-2	0
R	-1	5	0	-2	-3	1	0	-2	0	-3	-2	2	-1	-3	-2	-1	-1	-3	-2	-3
N	-2	0	6	1	-3	0	0	0	1	-3	-3	0	-2	-3	-2	1	0	-4	-2	-3
D	-2	-2	1	6	-3	0	2	-1	-1	-3	-4	-1	-3	-3	-1	0	-1	-4	-3	-3
C	0	-3	-3	-3	9	-3	-4	-3	-3	-1	-1	-3	-1	-2	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1
Q	-1	1	0	0	-3	5	2	-2	0	-3	-2	1	0	-3	-1	0	-1	-2	-1	-2
E	-1	0	0	2	-4	2	5	-2	0	-3	-3	1	-2	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2
G	0	-2	0	-1	-3	-2	-2	6	-2	-4	-4	-2	-3	-3	-2	0	-2	-2	-3	-3
H	-2	0	1	-1	-3	0	0	-2	8	-3	-3	-1	-2	-1	-2	-1	-2	-2	2	-3
I	-1	-3	-3	-3	-1	-3	-3	-4	-3	4	2	-3	1	0	-3	-2	-1	-3	-1	3
L	-1	-2	-3	-4	-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	2	4	-2	2	0	-3	-2	-1	-2	-1	1
K	-1	2	0	-1	-3	1	1	-2	-1	-3	-2	5	-1	-3	-1	0	-1	-3	-2	-2
M	-1	-1	-2	-3	-1	0	-2	-3	-2	1	2	-1	5	0	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	1
F	-2	-3	-3	-3	-2	-3	-3	-3	-1	0	0	-3	0	6	-4	-2	-2	1	3	-1
P	-1	-2	-2	-1	-3	-1	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	-1	-2	-4	7	-1	-1	-4	-3	-2
S	1	-1	1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	-2	-2	0	-1	-2	-1	4	1	-3	-2	-2
T	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1	-1	-1	-2	-1	1	5	-2	-2	0
W	-3	-3	-4	-4	-2	-2	-3	-2	-2	-3	-2	-3	-1	1	-4	-3	-2	11	2	-3
Y	-2	-2	-2	-3	-2	-1	-2	-3	2	-1	-1	-2	-1	3	-3	-2	-2	2	7	-1
V	0	-3	-3	-3	-1	-2	-2	-3	-3	3	1	-2	1	-1	-2	-2	0	-3	-1	4

Table 14.1: **The BLOSUM62 matrix**. A tabular view of the BLOSUM62 matrix containing all possible substitution scores [Henikoff and Henikoff, 1992].

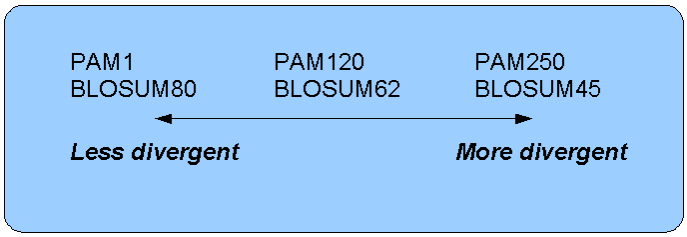

Figure 14.13: *Relationship between scoring matrices. The BLOSUM62 has become a* de facto *standard scoring matrix for a wide range of alignment programs. It is the default matrix in BLAST.*

Other useful resources

Calculate your own PAM matrix
http://www.bioinformatics.nl/tools/pam.html

BLOKS database
http://blocks.fhcrc.org/

NCBI help site
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Education/BLASTinfo/Scoring2.html

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14.3 Local complexity plot

In *CLC Combined Workbench* it is possible to calculate local complexity for both DNA and protein sequences. The local complexity is a measure of the diversity in the composition of amino acids within a given range (window) of the sequence. The K2 algorithm is used for calculating local complexity [Wootton and Federhen, 1993]. To conduct a complexity calculation do the following:

Select sequences in Navigation Area | Toolbox in Menu Bar | General Sequence Analyses ( ) | Create Complexity Plot ( )

This opens a dialog. In **Step 1** you can change, remove and add DNA and protein sequences.

When the relevant sequences are selected, clicking **Next** takes you to **Step 2**. This step allows you to adjust the window size from which the complexity plot is calculated. Default is set to 11 amino acids and the number should always be odd. The higher the number, the less volatile the graph.

Figure 14.14 shows an example of a local complexity plot.

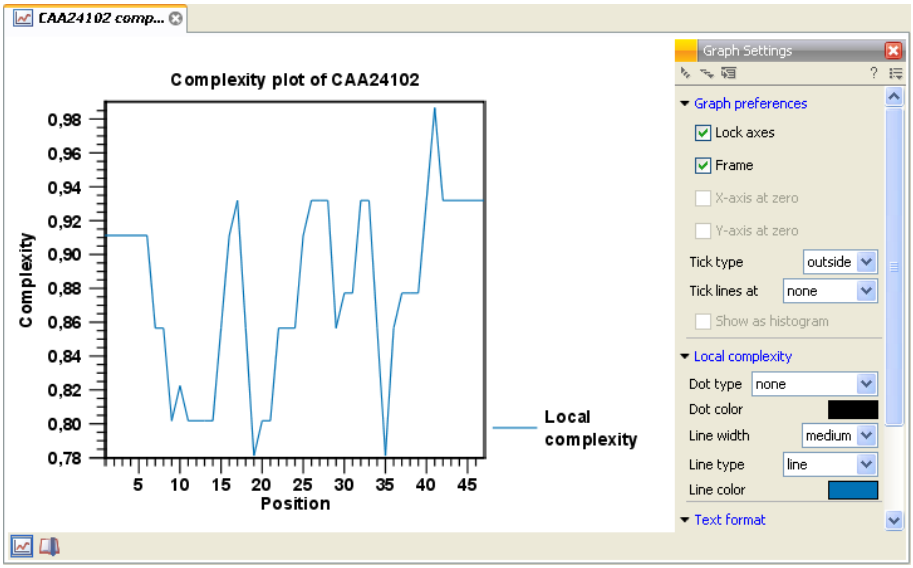

Figure 14.14: *An example of a local complexity plot.*

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The values of the complexity plot approaches 1.0 as the distribution of amino acids become more complex.

14.3.1 Local complexity view preferences

There are two groups of preferences for the local complexity view: Graph preferences and Local complexity preferences:

The **Graph preferences** apply to the whole graph:

- **Lock axis.**
  This will always show the axis even though the plot is zoomed to a detailed level.
- **Frame.**
  Toggles the frame of the graph.
- **X-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the x-axis at zero.
- **Y-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the y-axis at zero.
- **Tick type**
  - outside
  - inside
- **Tick lines at.**
  Shows a grid behind the graph.
  - none
  - major ticks
- **Show as histogram**
  For some data-series it is possible to see it as a histogram rather than a line plot.

The **Local complexity preferences** include:

- **Dot type**
  - none
  - cross
  - plus
  - square
  - diamond
  - circle
  - triangle
  - reverse triangle
  - dot
- **Dot color.** Allows you to choose between many different colors.
- **Line width**

  - thin
  - medium
  - wide

- **Line type**
  - none
  - line
  - long dash
  - short dash

- **Line color.** Allows you to choose between many different colors.

14.4 Sequence statistics

CLC Combined Workbench can produce an output with many relevant statistics for protein sequences. Some of the statistics are also relevant to produce for DNA sequences. Therefore, this section deals with both types of statistics. The required steps for producing the statistics are the same.

To create a statistic for the sequence, do the following:

select sequence(s) | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **General Sequence Analyses ( )** | **Create Sequence Statistics ( )**

This opens a dialog where you can alter your choice of sequences which you want to create statistics for. You can also add sequence lists.

Note! You cannot create statistics for DNA and protein sequences at the same time.

When the sequences are selected, click **Next**.

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 14.15.

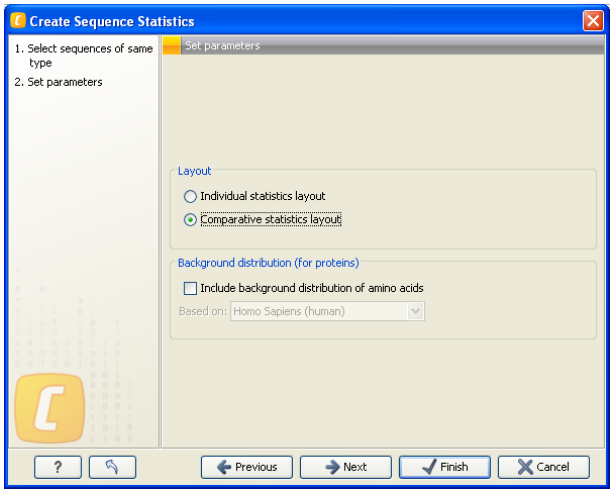

Figure 14.15: *Setting parameters for the sequence statistics.*

The dialog offers to adjust the following parameters:

- **Individual statistics layout.** If more sequences were selected in **Step 1**, this function generates separate statistics for each sequence.
- **Comparative statistics layout.** If more sequences were selected in **Step 1**, this function generates statistics with comparisons between the sequences.

You can also choose to include Background distribution of amino acids. If this box is ticked, an extra column with amino acid distribution of the chosen species, is included in the table output. (The distributions are calculated from UniProt www.uniprot.org version 6.0, dated September 13 2005.)

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. An example of protein sequence statistics is shown in figure 14.16.

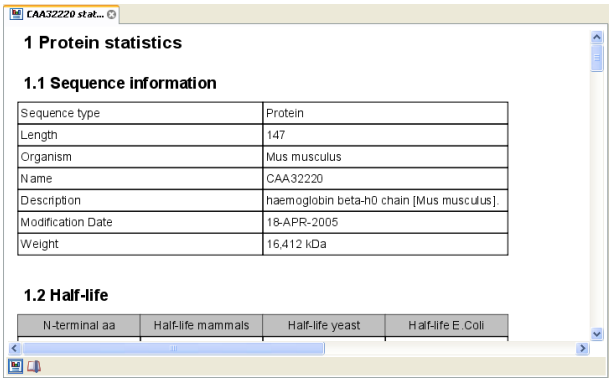

Figure 14.16: *Comparative sequence statistics.*

Nucleotide sequence statistics are generated using the same dialog as used for protein sequence statistics. However, the output of Nucleotide sequence statistics is less extensive than that of the protein sequence statistics.

Note! The headings of the tables change depending on whether you calculate 'individual' or 'comparative' sequence statistics.

The output of comparative protein sequence statistics include:

- Sequence information:
  - Sequence type
  - Length
  - Organism
  - Name
  - Description
  - Modification Date
  - Weight
  - Isoelectric point
  - Aliphatic index
- Half-life

- Extinction coefficient
- Counts of Atoms
- Frequency of Atoms
- Count of hydrophobic and hydrophilic residues
- Frequencies of hydrophobic and hydrophilic residues
- Count of charged residues
- Frequencies of charged residues
- Amino acid distribution
- Histogram of amino acid distribution
- Annotation table
- Counts of di-peptides
- Frequency of di-peptides

The output of nucleotide sequence statistics include:

- General statistics:
  - Sequence type
  - Length
  - Organism
  - Name
  - Description
  - Modification Date
  - Weight
- Atomic composition
- Nucleotide distribution table
- Nucleotide distribution histogram
- Annotation table
- Counts of di-nucleotides
- Frequency of di-nucleotides

A short description of the different areas of the statistical output is given in section 14.4.1.

14.4.1 Bioinformatics explained: Protein statistics

Every protein holds specific and individual features which are unique to that particular protein. Features such as isoelectric point or amino acid composition can reveal important information of a novel protein. Many of the features described below are calculated in a simple way.

Molecular weight

The molecular weight is the mass of a protein or molecule. The molecular weight is simply calculated as the sum of the atomic mass of all the atoms in the molecule.

The weight of a protein is usually represented in Daltons (Da).

A calculation of the molecular weight of a protein does not usually include additional posttranslational modifications. For native and unknown proteins it tends to be difficult to assess whether posttranslational modifications such as glycosylations are present on the protein, making a calculation based solely on the amino acid sequence inaccurate. The molecular weight can be determined very accurately by mass-spectrometry in a laboratory.

Isoelectric point

The isoelectric point (pI) of a protein is the pH where the proteins has no net charge. The pI is calculated from the pKa values for 20 different amino acids. At a pH below the pI, the protein carries a positive charge, whereas if the pH is above pI the proteins carry a negative charge. In other words, pI is high for basic proteins and low for acidic proteins. This information can be used in the laboratory when running electrophoretic gels. Here the proteins can be separated, based on their isoelectric point.

Aliphatic index

The aliphatic index of a protein is a measure of the relative volume occupied by aliphatic side chain of the following amino acids: alanine, valine, leucine and isoleucine. An increase in the aliphatic index increases the thermostability of globular proteins. The index is calculated by the following formula.

$$Aliphaticindex = X(Ala) + a * X(Val) + b * X(Leu) + b * (X)Ile$$

X(Ala), *X(Val)*, *X(Ile)* and *X(Leu)* are the amino acid compositional fractions. The constants a and b are the relative volume of valine (a=2.9) and leucine/isoleucine (b=3.9) side chains compared to the side chain of alanine [Ikai, 1980].

Estimated half-life

The half life of a protein is the time it takes for the protein pool of that particular protein to be reduced to the half. The half life of proteins is highly dependent on the presence of the N-terminal amino acid, thus overall protein stability [Bachmair et al., 1986, Gonda et al., 1989, Tobias et al., 1991]. The importance of the N-terminal residues is generally known as the 'N-end rule'. The N-end rule and consequently the N-terminal amino acid, simply determines the half-life of proteins. The estimated half-life of proteins have been investigated in mammals, yeast and *E. coli* (see Table 14.2). If leucine is found N-terminally in mammalian proteins the estimated half-life is 5.5 hours.

Extinction coefficient

This measure indicates how much light is absorbed by a protein at a particular wavelength. The extinction coefficient is measured by UV spectrophotometry, but can also be calculated. The

Amino acid	Mammalian	Yeast	E. coli
Ala (A)	4.4 hour	>20 hours	>10 hours
Cys (C)	1.2 hours	>20 hours	>10 hours
Asp (D)	1.1 hours	3 min	>10 hours
Glu (E)	1 hour	30 min	>10 hours
Phe (F)	1.1 hours	3 min	2 min
Gly (G)	30 hours	>20 hours	>10 hours
His (H)	3.5 hours	10 min	>10 hours
Ile (I)	20 hours	30 min	>10 hours
Lys (K)	1.3 hours	3 min	2 min
Leu (L)	5.5 hours	3 min	2 min
Met (M)	30 hours	>20 hours	>10 hours
Asn (N)	1.4 hours	3 min	>10 hours
Pro (P)	>20 hours	>20 hours	?
Gln (Q)	0.8 hour	10 min	>10 hours
Arg (R)	1 hour	2 min	2 min
Ser (S)	1.9 hours	>20 hours	>10 hours
Thr (T)	7.2 hours	>20 hours	>10 hours
Val (V)	100 hours	>20 hours	>10 hours
Trp (W)	2.8 hours	3 min	2 min
Tyr (Y)	2.8 hours	10 min	2 min

Table 14.2: **Estimated half life**. Half life of proteins where the N-terminal residue is listed in the first column and the half-life in the subsequent columns for mammals, yeast and *E. coli*.

amino acid composition is important when calculating the extinction coefficient. The extinction coefficient is calculated from the absorbance of cysteine, tyrosine and tryptophan using the following equation:

$$Ext(Protein) = count(Cystine) * Ext(Cystine) + count(Tyr) * Ext(Tyr) + count(Trp) * Ext(Trp)$$

where Ext is the extinction coefficient of amino acid in question. At 280nm the extinction coefficients are: Cys=120, Tyr=1280 and Trp=5690.

This equation is only valid under the following conditions:

- pH 6.5
- 6.0 M guanidium hydrochloride
- 0.02 M phosphate buffer

The extinction coefficient values of the three important amino acids at different wavelengths are found in [Gill and von Hippel, 1989].

Knowing the extinction coefficient, the absorbance (optical density) can be calculated using the following formula:

$$Absorbance(Protein) = \frac{Ext(Protein)}{Molecular\ weight}$$

Two values are reported. The first value is computed assuming that all cysteine residues appear

as half cystines, meaning they form di-sulfide bridges to other cysteines. The second number assumes that no di-sulfide bonds are formed.

Atomic composition

Amino acids are indeed very simple compounds. All 20 amino acids consist of combinations of only five different atoms. The atoms which can be found in these simple structures are: Carbon, Nitrogen, Hydrogen, Sulfur, Oxygen. The atomic composition of a protein can for example be used to calculate the precise molecular weight of the entire protein.

Total number of negatively charged residues (Asp+Glu)

At neutral pH, the fraction of negatively charged residues provides information about the location of the protein. Intracellular proteins tend to have a higher fraction of negatively charged residues than extracellular proteins.

Total number of positively charged residues (Arg+Lys)

At neutral pH, nuclear proteins have a high relative percentage of positively charged amino acids. Nuclear proteins often bind to the negatively charged DNA, which may regulate gene expression or help to fold the DNA. Nuclear proteins often have a low percentage of aromatic residues [Andrade et al., 1998].

Amino acid distribution

Amino acids are the basic components of proteins. The amino acid distribution in a protein is simply the percentage of the different amino acids represented in a particular protein of interest. Amino acid composition is generally conserved through family-classes in different organisms which can be useful when studying a particular protein or enzymes across species borders. Another interesting observation is that amino acid composition variate slightly between proteins from different subcellular localizations. This fact has been used in several computational methods, used for prediction of subcellular localization.

Annotation table

This table provides an overview of all the different annotations associated with the sequence and their incidence.

Dipeptide distribution

This measure is simply a count, or frequency, of all the observed adjacent pairs of amino acids (dipeptides) found in the protein. It is only possible to report neighboring amino acids. Knowledge on dipeptide composition have previously been used for prediction of subcellular localization.

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14.5 Join sequences

CLC Combined Workbench can join several nucleotide or protein sequences into one sequence. This feature can for example be used to construct "supergenes" for phylogenetic inference by joining several disjoint genes into one. Note, that when sequences are joined, all their annotations are carried over to the new spliced sequence.

Two (or more) sequences can be joined by:

select sequences to join | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **General Sequence Analyses** | **Join sequences** ( )

or **select sequences to join** | **right-click any selected sequence** | **Toolbox** | **General Sequence Analyses** | **Join sequences** ( )

This opens the dialog shown in figure 14.17.

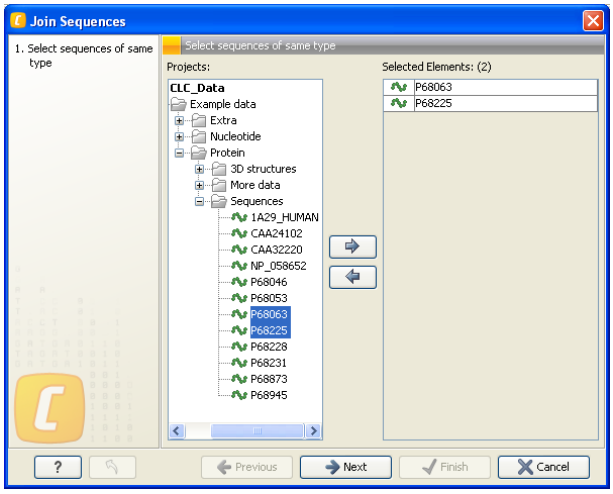

Figure 14.17: *Selecting two sequences to be joined.*

If you have selected some sequences before choosing the Toolbox action, they are now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences from the selected elements. Click **Next** opens the dialog shown in figure 14.18.

In step 2 you can change the order in which the sequences will be joined. Select a sequence and use the arrows to move the selected sequence up or down.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

The result is shown in figure 14.19.

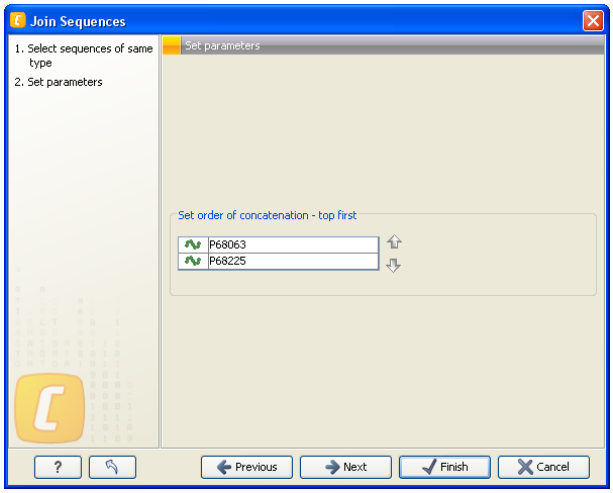

Figure 14.18: *Setting the order in which sequences are joined.*

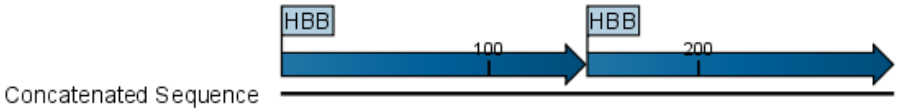

Figure 14.19: *The result of joining sequences is a new sequence containing the annotations of the joined sequences (they each had a HBB annotation).*

14.6 Motif Search

CLC Combined Workbench offers advanced and versatile options to search for unknown sequence patterns or known motifs represented either by a literal string or a regular expression. These advanced search capabilities are available for use in both DNA and protein sequences.

Difference between Motif Search and Pattern Discovery

In motif search, the user has some predefined knowledge about the pattern/motif of interest. This motif is defined by the user and the algorithm runs through the entire sequence and looks for identical or degenerate patterns. Motif search handles ambiguous characters in the way that two residues are different if they do not have any residues in common. For example: For nucleotides, N matches any character and R matches A, G. For proteins, X matches any character and Z matches E, Q.

Our pattern discovery algorithm (see section 14.7) is based on proprietary hidden Markov models (HMM) and scans the entire sequence (one or more) for patterns which may be unknown to the user.

Motifs

If you have a known motif represented by a literal string or a sequence pattern of interest, you can search for them using the *CLC Combined Workbench*. Patterns and motifs can be searched with different levels of degeneracy in both DNA and protein sequences.

You can also search for matches with known motifs represented by a regular expression: A regular expressions is a string that describes or matches a set of strings, according to certain syntax rules. They are usually used to give a concise description of a set, without

having to list all elements. The simplest form of a regular expression is a literal string. The syntax used for the regular expressions is the Java regular expression syntax (see http://java.sun.com/docs/books/tutorial/essential/regex/index.html). Below is listed some of the most important syntax rules which are also shown in the help pop-up when you press Shift + F1:

[$A-Z$] will match the characters A through Z (Range). You can also put single characters between the brackets: The expression $[AGT]$ matches the characters A, G or T.

[$A-D[M-P]$] will match the characters A through D and M through P (Union). You can also put single characters between the brackets: The expression $[AG[M-P]]$ matches the characters A, G and M through P.

[$A-M\&\&[H-P]$] will match the characters between A and M lying between H and P (Intersection). You can also put single characters between the brackets. The expression $[A-M\&\&[HGTDA]]$ matches the characters A through M which is H, G, T, D or A.

[$\hat{}A-M$] will match any character except those between A and M (Excluding). You can also put single characters between the brackets: The expression $[\hat{}AG]$ matches any character except A and G.

[$A-Z\&\&[\hat{}M-P]$] will match any character A through Z except those between M and P (Subtraction). You can also put single characters between the brackets: The expression $[A-P\&\&[\hat{}CG]]$ matches any character between A and P except C and G.

The symbol . matches any character.

$X\{n\}$ will match a repetition of an element indicated by following that element with a numerical value or a numerical range between the curly brackets. For example, $ACG\{2\}$ matches the string $ACGACG$.

$X\{n,m\}$ will match a certain number of repetitions of an element indicated by following that element with two numerical values between the curly brackets. The first number is a lower limit on the number of repetitions and the second number is an upper limit on the number of repetitions. For example, $ACT\{1,3\}$ matches $ACT, ACTACT$ and $ACTACTACT$.

$X\{n,\}$ represents a repetition of an element at least n times. For example, $AC\{2,\}$ matches all strings $ACAC$, $ACACAC$, $ACACACAC$,...

The symbol $\hat{}$ restricts the search to the beginning of your sequence. For example, if you search through a sequence with the regular expression $\hat{}AC$, the algorithm will find a match if AC occurs in the beginning of the sequence.

The symbol $ restricts the search to the end of your sequence. For example, if you search through a sequence with the regular expression GT, the algorithm will find a match if GT occurs in the end of the sequence.

Examples

The expression $[ACG][\hat{}AC]G\{2\}$ matches all strings of length 4, where the first character is A, C or G and the second is any character except A, C and the third and fourth character is G. The expression $G.[\hat{}A]$$ matches all strings of length 3 in the end of your sequence, where the first character is C, the second any character and the third any character except A.

For proteins, you can enter different protein patterns from the PROSITE database (protein patterns using regular expressions and describing specific amino acid sequences). The PROSITE database contains a great number of patterns and have been used to identify related proteins (see http://www.expasy.org/cgi-bin/prosite-list.pl).

In order to search for a known motif:

Select DNA or protein sequence(s) | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Motif Search** ( )

or **Right-click DNA or protein sequence(s)** | **Toolbox** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Motif Search** ( )

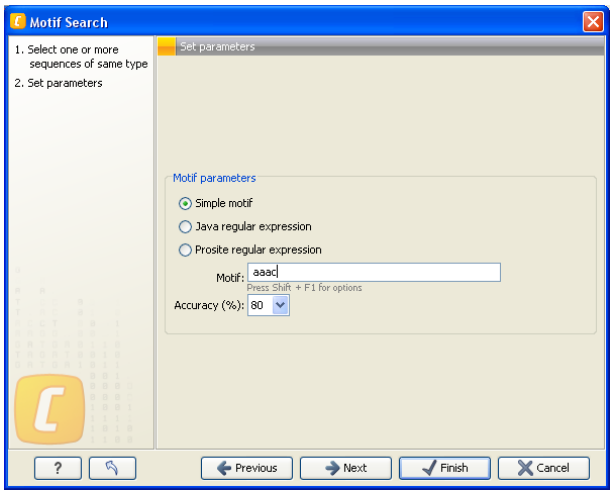

Figure 14.20: *Setting parameters for the motif search. See text for details.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

You can perform the analysis on several DNA or several protein sequences at a time. If the analysis is performed on several sequences at a time the method will search for patterns in the sequences and open a new view for each of the sequences.

Click **Next** to adjust parameters (see figure 14.20).

14.6.1 Motif search parameter settings

Various parameters can be set prior to the motif search. The parameters are listed below and a screen shot of the parameter settings can be seen in figure 14.20.

- **Motif types.** You can choose literal string (simple motif) or a *Java regular expression* as your motif type. For proteins, you can choose to search with a Prosite regular expression.
- **Motif.** If you choose to search with a simple motif, you should enter a literal string as your motif. Ambiguous amino acids and nucleotides are allowed. Example; ATGATGNNATG. If your motif type is Java regular expression, you should enter a regular expression according to the syntax rules described in section 14.6. Press **Shift + F1** key for options. For proteins, you can search with a Prosite regular expression and you should enter a protein pattern from the PROSITE database.

- **Accuracy.** If you search with a simple motif, you can adjust the accuracy of the search string to the match on the sequence.
- **Search for reverse motif.** This enables searching on the negative strand on nucleotide sequences.
- **Exclude unknown regions.** Genome sequence often have large regions with unknown sequence. These regions are very often padded with N's. Ticking this checkbox will not display hits found in N-regions.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will open a view showing the motifs or patterns found as annotations on the original sequence (see figure 14.21). If you have selected several sequences, a corresponding number of views will be opened.

Figure 14.21: *Sequence view displaying the pattern found. The search string was 'QRQXRXXXXQQ'.*

14.6.2 Motif search output

If the analysis is performed on several sequences at a time the method will search for patterns in the sequences and open a new view for each of the sequences. If wanted, annotations on patterns found can be added to all the sequences. Each pattern found will be represented as an annotation of the type **Region**. More information on each motif or pattern found is available through the tooltip, including detailed information on the position of the pattern and how similar it was to the search string.

It is also possible to get a tabular view of all motifs or patterns found in either one combined table or in individual tables if multiple sequences were selected. Then each pattern found will be represented with its position in the sequence and the obtained accuracy score.

14.7 Pattern Discovery

With *CLC Combined Workbench* you can perform pattern discovery on both DNA and protein sequences. Advanced hidden Markov models can help to identify unknown sequence patterns across single or even multiple sequences.

In order to search for unknown patterns:

Select DNA or protein sequence(s) | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Pattern Discovery** ( )

or **right-click DNA or protein sequence(s)** | **Toolbox** | **General Sequence Analyses** ( ) | **Pattern Discovery** ( )

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

You can perform the analysis on several DNA or several protein sequences at a time. If the analysis is performed on several sequences at a time the method will search for patterns which is common between all the sequences. Annotations will be added to all the sequences and a view is opened for each sequence.

Click **Next** to adjust parameters (see figure 14.22).

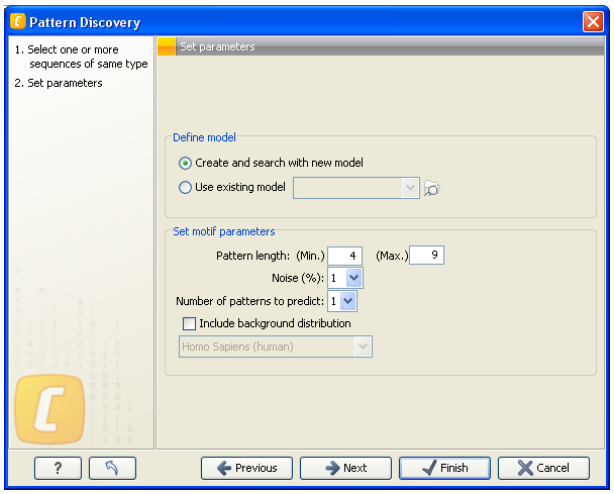

Figure 14.22: *Setting parameters for the pattern discovery. See text for details.*

In order to search unknown sequences with an already existing model:

Select to use an already existing model which is seen in figure 14.22. Models are represented with the following icon in the navigation area ( ).

14.7.1 Pattern discovery search parameters

Various parameters can be set prior to the pattern discovery. The parameters are listed below and a screen shot of the parameter settings can be seen in figure 14.22.

- **Create and search with new model.** This will create a new HMM model based on the selected sequences. The found model will be opened after the run and presented in a table view. It can be saved and used later if desired.
- **Use existing model.** It is possible to use already created models to search for the same pattern in new sequences.
- **Minimum pattern length.** Here, the minimum length of patterns to search for, can be specified.
- **Maximum pattern length.** Here, the maximum length of patterns to search for, can be specified.
- **Noise (%).** Specify noise-level of the model. This parameter has influence on the level of degeneracy of patterns in the sequence(s). The noise parameter can be 1,2,5 or 10 percent.
- **Number of different kinds of patterns to predict.** Number of iterations the algorithm goes through. After the first iteration, we force predicted pattern-positions in the first run to be

member of the background: In that way, the algorithm finds new patterns in the second iteration. Patterns marked 'Pattern1' have the highest confidence. The maximal iterations to go through is 3.

- **Include background distribution.** For protein sequences it is possible to include information on the background distribution of amino acids from a range of organisms.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will open a view showing the patterns found as annotations on the original sequence (see figure 14.23). If you have selected several sequences, a corresponding number of views will be opened.

Figure 14.23: *Sequence view displaying two discovered patterns.*

14.7.2 Pattern search output

If the analysis is performed on several sequences at a time the method will search for patterns in the sequences and open a new view for each of the sequences, in which a pattern was discovered. Each novel pattern will be represented as an annotation of the type **Region**. More information on each found pattern is available through the tool-tip, including detailed information on the position of the pattern and quality scores.

It is also possible to get a tabular view of all found patterns in one combined table. Then each found pattern will be represented with various information on obtained scores, quality of the pattern and position in the sequence.

A table view of emission values of the actual used HMM model is presented in a table view. This model can be saved and used to search for a similar pattern in new or unknown sequences.

Chapter 15

Nucleotide analyses

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CLC Combined Workbench offers different kinds of sequence analyses, which only apply to DNA and RNA.

15.1 Convert DNA to RNA

CLC Combined Workbench lets you convert a DNA sequence into RNA, substituting the T residues (Thymine) for U residues (Urasil):

select a DNA sequence in the Navigation Area | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Nucleotide Analyses** ( ) | **Convert DNA to RNA** ( )

or **right-click a sequence in Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **Nucleotide Analyses** ( ) | **Convert DNA to RNA** ( )

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 15.1:

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

Note! You can select multiple DNA sequences and sequence lists at a time. If the sequence list contains RNA sequences as well, they will not be converted.

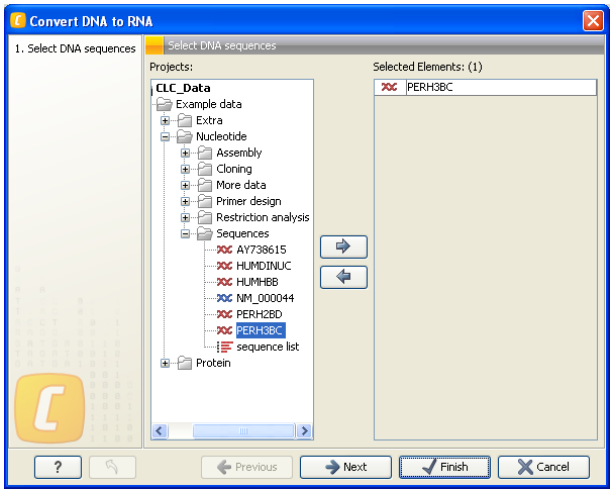

Figure 15.1: *Translating DNA to RNA.*

15.2 Convert RNA to DNA

CLC Combined Workbench lets you convert an RNA sequence into DNA, substituting the U residues (Urasil) for T residues (Thymine):

select an RNA sequence in the Navigation Area | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Nucleotide Analyses** ( ) | **Convert RNA to DNA** ( )

or **right-click a sequence in Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **Nucleotide Analyses** ( ) | **Convert RNA to DNA** ( )

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 15.2:

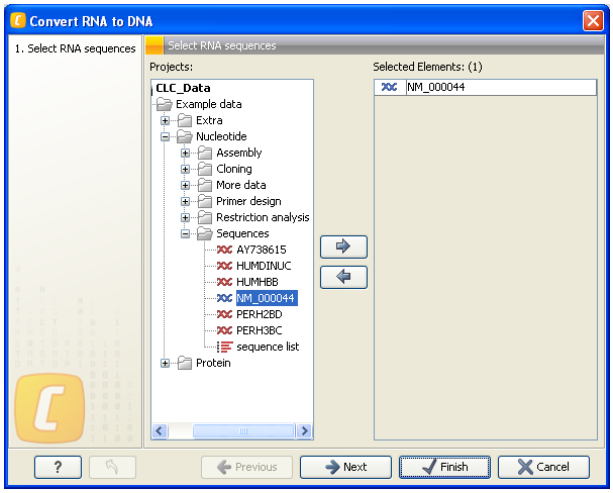

Figure 15.2: *Translating RNA to DNA.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

This will open a new view in the **View Area** displaying the new DNA sequence. The new sequence is not saved automatically. To save the sequence, drag it into the **Navigation Area** or press Ctrl

+ S (⌘ + S on Mac) to activate a save dialog.

Note! You can select multiple RNA sequences and sequence lists at a time. If the sequence list contains DNA sequences as well, they will not be converted.

15.3 Reverse complements of sequences

CLC Combined Workbench is able to create the reverse complement of a nucleotide sequence. By doing that, a new sequence is created which also has all the annotations reversed since they now occupy the opposite strand of their previous location.

To quickly obtain the reverse complement of a sequence or part of a sequence, you may select a region on the negative strand and open it in a new view:

right-click a selection on the negative strand | **Open selection in New View** ( )

By doing that, the sequence will be reversed. This is only possible when the double stranded view option is enabled. It is possible to copy the selection and paste it in a word processing program or an e-mail. To obtain a reverse complement of an entire sequence:

select a sequence in the Navigation Area | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Nucleotide Analyses** ( ) | **Create Reverse Complement** ( )

or **right-click a sequence in Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **Nucleotide Analyses** ( ) | **Create Reverse Complement** ( )

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 15.3:

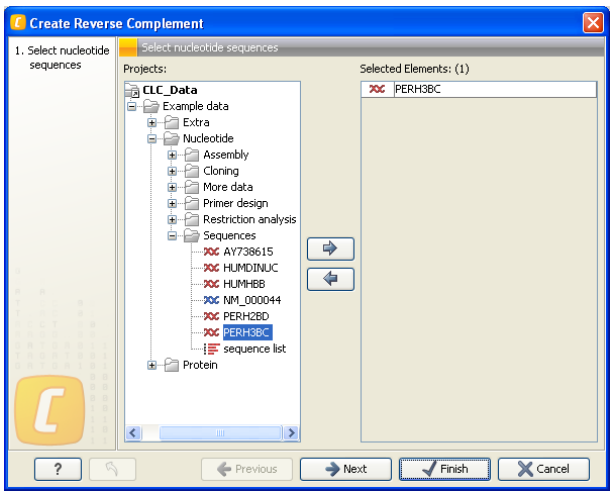

Figure 15.3: *Creating a reverse complement sequence.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

This will open a new view in the **View Area** displaying the reverse complement of the selected sequence. The new sequence is not saved automatically. To save the sequence, drag it into the **Navigation Area** or press Ctrl + S (⌘ + S on Mac) to activate a save dialog.

15.4 Translation of DNA or RNA to protein

In *CLC Combined Workbench* you can translate a nucleotide sequence into a protein sequence using the **Toolbox** tools. Usually, you use the +1 reading frame which means that the translation starts from the first nucleotide. Stop codons result in an asterisk being inserted in the protein sequence at the corresponding position. It is possible to translate in any combination of the six reading frames in one analysis. To translate:

select a nucleotide sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Nucleotide Analyses ( )** | **Translate to Protein ( )**

or **right-click a nucleotide sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Nucleotide Analyses ( )** | **Translate to Protein ( )**

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 15.4:

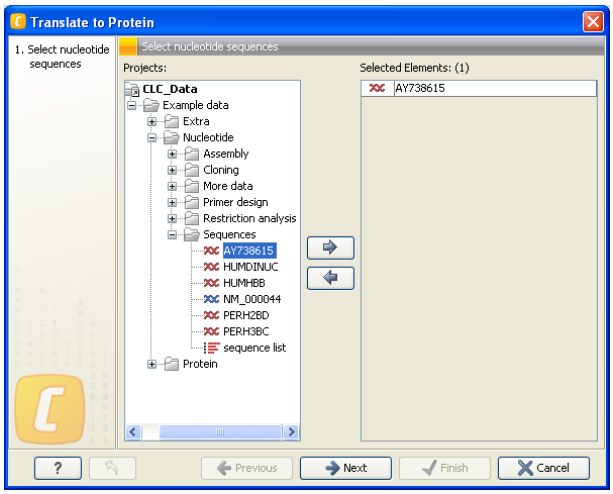

Figure 15.4: *Choosing sequences for translation.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Clicking **Next** generates the dialog seen in figure 15.5:

Here you have the following options:

Reading frames If you wish to translate the whole sequence, you must specify the reading frame for the translation. If you select e.g. two reading frames, two protein sequences are generated.

Translate coding regions You can choose to translate regions marked by and CDS or ORF annotation. This will generate a protein sequence for each CDS or ORF annotation on the sequence.

Genetic code translation table Lets you specify the genetic code for the translation. The translation tables are occasionally updated from NCBI. The tables are not available in this printable version of the user manual. Instead, the tables are included in the **Help**-menu in the **Menu Bar** (in the appendix).

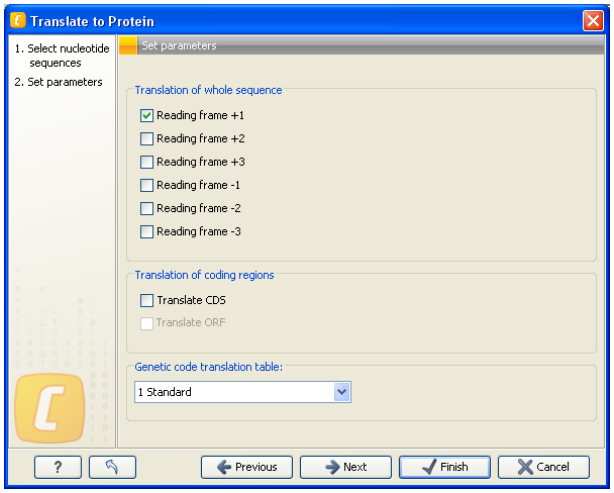

Figure 15.5: *Choosing +1 and +3 reading frames, and the standard translation table.*

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The newly created protein is shown, but is not saved automatically.

To save a protein sequence, drag it into the **Navigation Area** or press Ctrl + S (⌘ + S on Mac) to activate a save dialog.

15.4.1 Translate part of a nucleotide sequence

If you want to make separate translations of *all* the coding regions of a nucleotide sequence, you can check the option: "Translate CDS and ORF" in the translation dialog (see figure 15.5).

If you want to translate a *specific* coding region, which is annotated on the sequence, use the following procedure:

Open the nucleotide sequence | **right-click the ORF or CDS annotation** | **Translate CDS/ORF ()** | **choose a translation table** | **OK**

If the annotation contains information about the translation, this information will be used, and you do not have to specify a translation table.

The CDS and ORF annotations are colored yellow as default.

15.5 Find open reading frames

CLC Combined Workbench has a basic functionality for gene finding in the form of open reading frame (ORF) determination. The ORFs will be shown as annotations on the sequence. You have the option of choosing translation table, start codons, minimum length and other parameters for finding the ORFs. These parameters will be explained in this section.

To find open reading frames:

select a nucleotide sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Nucleotide Analyses ( )** | **Find Open Reading Frames ( )**

or **right-click a nucleotide sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Nucleotide Analyses ( )** | **Find Open Reading Frames ()**

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 15.6:

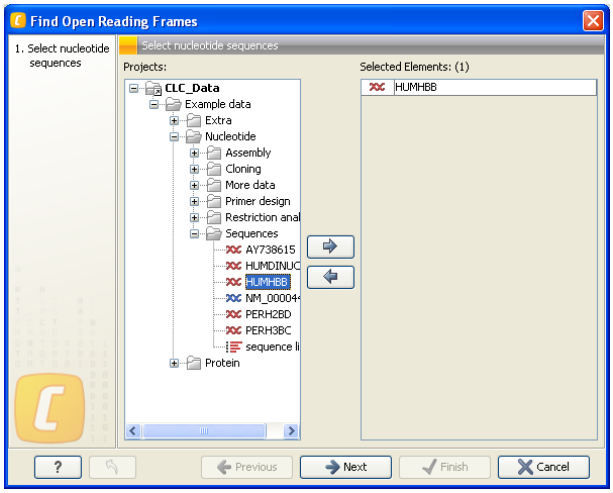

Figure 15.6: *Create Reading Frame dialog.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

If you want to adjust the parameters for finding open reading frames click **Next**.

15.5.1 Open reading frame parameters

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 15.7:

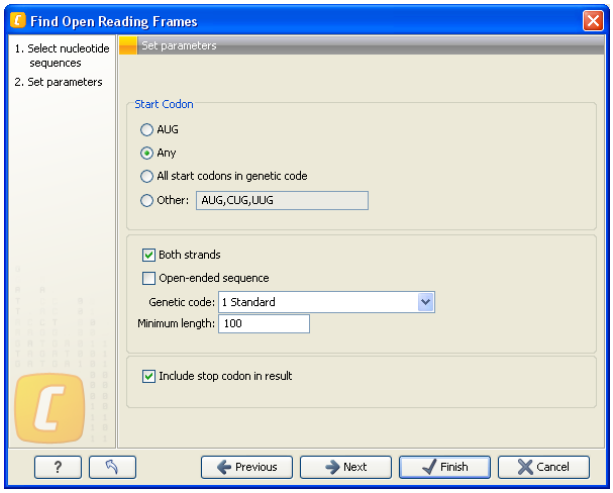

Figure 15.7: *Create Reading Frame dialog.*

The adjustable parameters for the search are:

- **Start Codon**:
  - **AUG**. Most commonly used start codon.
  - **Any**.

  - **All start codons in genetic code**.
  - **Other**. Here you can specify a number of start codons separated by commas.

- **Both Strands**. Finds reading frames on both strands.
- **Open Ended Sequence**. Allows the ORF to start or end outside the sequence. If the sequence studied is a part of a larger sequence, it may be advantageous to allow the ORF to start or end outside the sequence.
- **Genetic code translation table**.
- **Include stop codon in result** The ORFs will be shown as annotations which can include the stop codon if this option is checked. The translation tables are occasionally updated from NCBI. The tables are not available in this printable version of the user manual. Instead, the tables are included in the **Help**-menu in the **Menu Bar** (in the appendix).
- **Minimum Length**. Specifies the minimum length for the ORFs to be found. The length is specified as number of codons.

Using open reading frames for gene finding is a fairly simple approach which is likely to predict genes which are not real. Setting a relatively high minimum length of the ORFs will reduce the number of false positive predictions, but at the same time short genes may be missed (see figure 15.8).

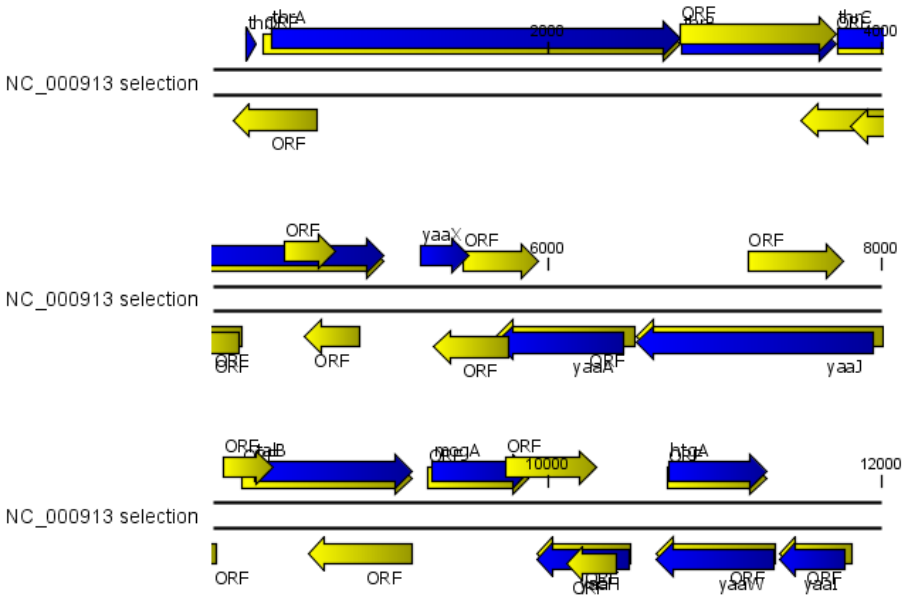

Figure 15.8: *The first 12,000 positions of the* E. coli *sequence NC_000913 downloaded from GenBank. The blue (dark) annotations are the genes while the yellow (brighter) annotations are the ORFs with a length of at least 100 amino acids. On the positive strand around position 11,000, a gene starts before the ORF. This is due to the use of the standard genetic code rather than the bacterial code. This particular gene starts with CTG, which is a start codon in bacteria. Two short genes are entirely missing, while a handful of open reading frames do not correspond to any of the annotated genes.*

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

Finding open reading frames is often a good first step in annotating sequences such as cloning vectors or bacterial genomes. For eukaryotic genes, ORF determination may not always be very helpful since the intron/exon structure is not part of the algorithm.

Chapter 16

Protein analyses

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CLC Combined Workbench offers a number of analyses of proteins as described in this chapter.

16.1 Signal peptide prediction

Signal peptides target proteins to the extracellular environment either through direct plasmamembrane translocation in prokaryotes or is routed through the Endoplasmatic Reticulum in eukaryotic cells. The signal peptide is removed from the resulting mature protein during translocation across the membrane. For prediction of signal peptides, we query SignalP [Nielsen et al., 1997, Bendtsen et al., 2004b] located at `http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP/`. Thus an active internet connection is required to run the signal peptide prediction. Additional information on SignalP and Center for Biological Sequence analysis (CBS) can be found at `http://www.cbs.dtu.dk` and in the original research papers [Nielsen et al., 1997, Bendtsen et al., 2004b].

In order to predict potential signal peptides of proteins, the D-score from the SignalP output is used for discrimination of signal peptide versus non-signal peptide (see section 16.1.3). This score has been shown to be the most accurate [Klee and Ellis, 2005] in an evaluation study of signal peptide predictors.

In order to use SignalP, *you need to download the SignalP plug-in* using the plug-in manager, see section 1.7.1.

When the plug-in is downloaded and installed, you can use it to predict signal peptides:

Select a protein sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Protein Analyses (** **)** | **Signal Peptide Prediction (** **)**

or **right-click a protein sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses (** **)** | **Signal Peptide Prediction (** **)**

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Click **Next** to set parameters for the SignalP analysis.

16.1.1 Signal peptide prediction parameter settings

It is possible to set different options prior to running the analysis (see figure 16.1). An organism type should be selected. The default is eukaryote.

- Eukaryote (default)
- Gram-negative bacteria
- Gram-positive bacteria

You can perform the analysis on several protein sequences at a time. This will add annotations to all the sequences and open a view for each sequence if a signal peptide is found. If no signal peptide is found in the sequence a dialog box will be shown.

The predictions obtained can either be shown as annotations on the sequence, listed in a table or be shown as the detailed and full text output from the SignalP method. This can be used to interpret borderline predictions:

- Add annotations to sequence

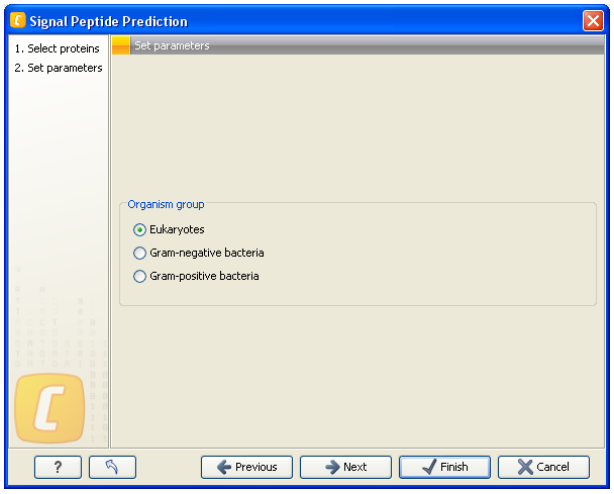

Figure 16.1: *Setting the parameters for signal peptide prediction.*

- Create table
- Text

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

16.1.2 Signal peptide prediction output

After running the prediction as described above, the protein sequence will show predicted signal peptide as annotations on the original sequence (see figure 16.2).

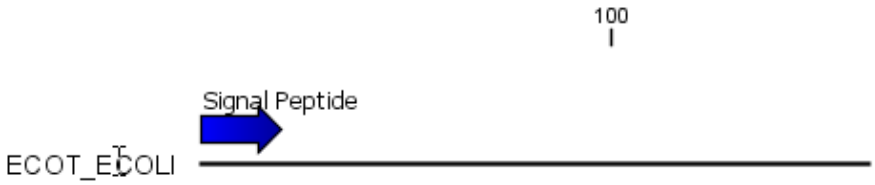

Figure 16.2: *N-terminal signal peptide shown as annotation on the sequence.*

Each annotation will carry a tooltip note saying that the corresponding annotation is predicted with SignalP version 3.0. Additional notes can be added through the **Edit annotation** ( ) right-click mouse menu. See section 10.3.2.

Undesired annotations can be removed through the **Delete Annotation ( )** right-click mouse menu. See section 10.3.4.

16.1.3 Bioinformatics explained: Prediction of signal peptides

Why the interest in signal peptides?

The importance of signal peptides was shown in 1999 when Günter Blobel received the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for his discovery that "proteins have intrinsic signals that govern their transport and localization in the cell" [Blobel, 2000]. He pointed out the importance of defined peptide motifs for targeting proteins to their site of function.

Performing a query to PubMed[1] reveals that thousands of papers have been published, regarding signal peptides, secretion and subcellular localization, including knowledge of using signal peptides as vehicles for chimeric proteins for biomedical and pharmaceutical industry. Many papers describe statistical or machine learning methods for prediction of signal peptides and prediction of subcellular localization in general. After the first published method for signal peptide prediction [von Heijne, 1986], more and more methods have surfaced, although not all methods have been made available publicly.

Different types of signal peptides

Soon after Günter Blobel's initial discovery of signal peptides, more targeting signals were found. Most cell types and organisms employ several ways of targeting proteins to the extracellular environment or subcellular locations. Most of the proteins targeted for the extracellular space or subcellular locations carry specific sequence motifs (signal peptides) characterizing the type of secretion/targeting it undergoes.

Several new different signal peptides or targeting signals have been found during the later years, and papers often describe a small amino acid motif required for secretion of that particular protein. In most of the latter cases, the identified sequence motif is only found in this particular protein and as such cannot be described as a new group of signal peptides.

Describing the various types of signal peptides is beyond the scope of this text but several review papers on this topic can be found on PubMed. Targeting motifs can either be removed from, or retained in the mature protein after the protein has reached the correct and final destination. Some of the best characterized signal peptides are depicted in figure 16.3.

Numerous methods for prediction of protein targeting and signal peptides have been developed; some of them are mentioned and cited in the introduction of the SignalP research paper [Bendtsen et al., 2004b]. However, no prediction method will be able to cover all the different types of signal peptides. Most methods predicts classical signal peptides targeting to the general secretory pathway in bacteria or classical secretory pathway in eukaryotes. Furthermore, a few methods for prediction of non-classically secreted proteins have emerged [Bendtsen et al., 2004a, Bendtsen et al., 2005].

Prediction of signal peptides and subcellular localization

In the search for accurate prediction of signal peptides, many approaches have been investigated. Almost 20 years ago, the first method for prediction of classical signal peptides was published [von Heijne, 1986]. Nowadays, more sophisticated machine learning methods, such as neural networks, support vector machines, and hidden Markov models have arrived along with the increasing computational power and they all perform superior to the old weight matrix based methods [Menne et al., 2000]. Also, many other "classical" statistical approaches have been carried out, often in conjunction with machine learning methods. In the following sections, a wide range of different signal peptide and subcellular prediction methods will be described.

Most signal peptide prediction methods require the presence of the correct N-terminal end of the preprotein for correct classification. As large scale genome sequencing projects sometimes assign the 5'-end of genes incorrectly, many proteins are annotated without the correct N-terminal [Reinhardt and Hubbard, 1998] leading to incorrect prediction of subcellular localization.

[1] http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/

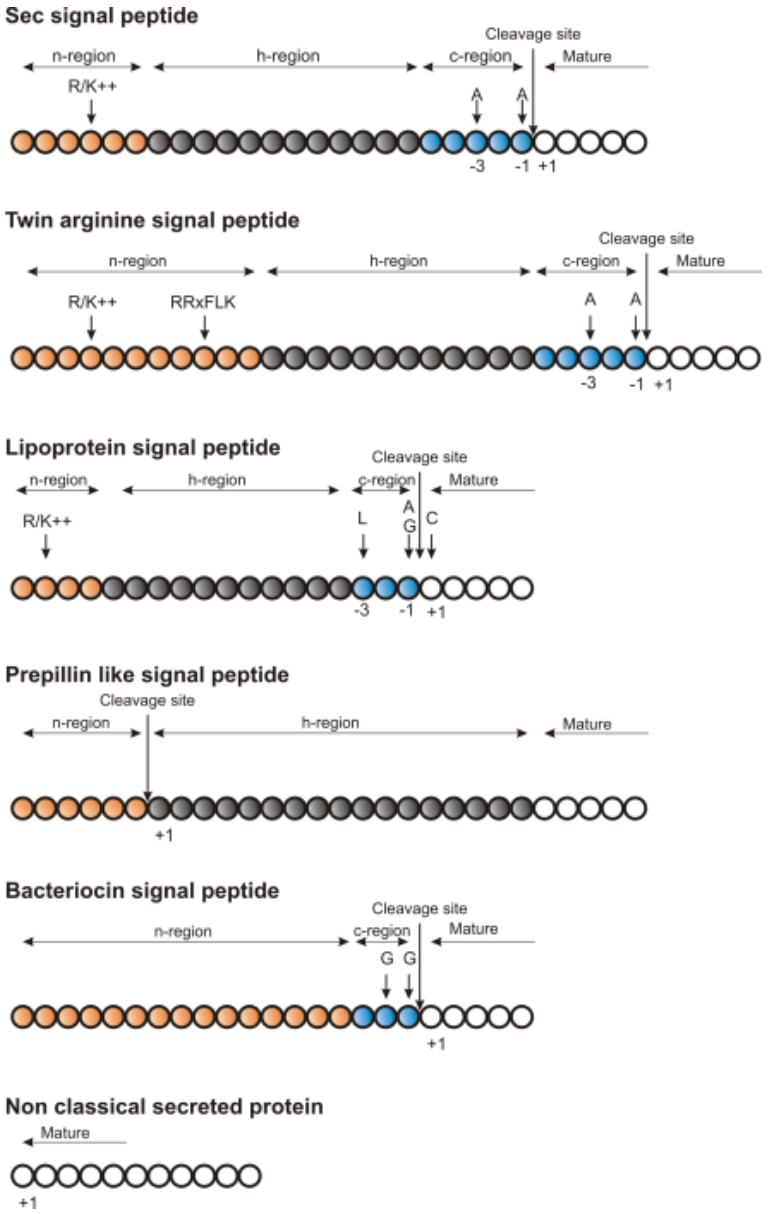

Figure 16.3: *Schematic representation of various signal peptides. Red color indicates n-region, gray color indicates h-region, cyan indicates c-region. All white circles are part of the mature protein.* $+1$ *indicates the first position of the mature protein. The length of the signal peptides is not drawn to scale.*

These erroneous predictions can be ascribed directly to poor gene finding. Other methods for prediction of subcellular localization use information within the mature protein and therefore they are more robust to N-terminal truncation and gene finding errors.

The SignalP method

One of the most cited and best methods for prediction of classical signal peptides is the SignalP method [Nielsen et al., 1997, Bendtsen et al., 2004b]. In contrast to other methods, SignalP also predicts the actual cleavage site; thus the peptide which is cleaved off during translocation over the membrane. Recently, an independent research paper has rated SignalP version 3.0

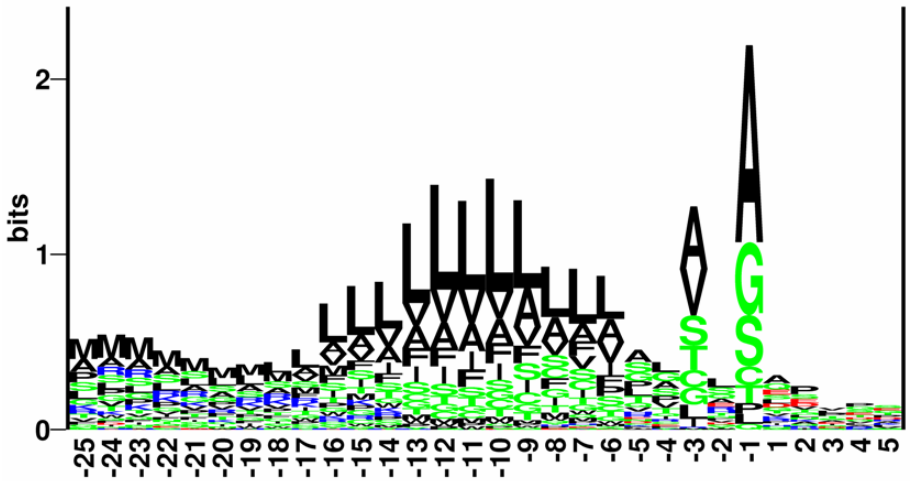

Figure 16.4: *Sequence logo of eukaryotic signal peptides, showing conservation of amino acids in bits [Schneider and Stephens, 1990]. Polar and hydrophobic residues are shown in green and black, respectively, while blue indicates positively charged residues and red negatively charged residues. The logo is based on an ungapped sequence alignment fixed at the -1 position of the signal peptides.*

to be the best standalone tool for signal peptide prediction. It was shown that the D-score which is reported by the SignalP method is the best measure for discriminating secretory from non-secretory proteins [Klee and Ellis, 2005].

SignalP is located at `http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP/`

What do the SignalP scores mean?

Many bioinformatics approaches or prediction tools do not give a yes/no answer. Often the user is facing an interpretation of the output, which can be either numerical or graphical. Why is that? In clear-cut examples there are no doubt; yes: this is a signal peptide! But, in borderline cases it is often convenient to have more information than just a yes/no answer. Here a graphical output can aid to interpret the correct answer. An example is shown in figure 16.5.

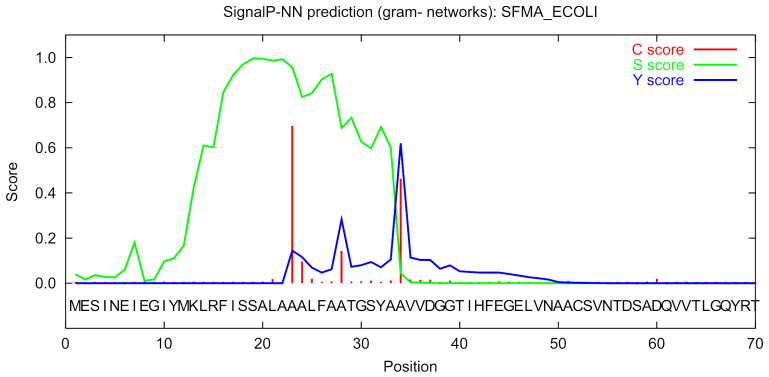

Figure 16.5: *Graphical output from the SignalP method of Swiss-Prot entry `SFMA_ECOLI`. Initially this seemed like a borderline prediction, but closer inspection of the sequence revealed an internal methionine at position 12, which could indicate a erroneously annotated start of the protein. Later this protein was re-annotated by Swiss-Prot to start at the M in position 12. See the text for description of the scores.*

The graphical output from SignalP (neural network) comprises three different scores, *C*, *S* and *Y*. Two additional scores are reported in the SignalP3-NN output, namely the *S-mean* and the *D-score*, but these are only reported as numerical values.

For each organism class in SignalP; Eukaryote, Gram-negative and Gram-positive, two different neural networks are used, one for predicting the actual signal peptide and one for predicting the position of the signal peptidase I (SPase I) cleavage site. The *S-score* for the signal peptide prediction is reported for every single amino acid position in the submitted sequence, with high scores indicating that the corresponding amino acid is part of a signal peptide, and low scores indicating that the amino acid is part of a mature protein.

The *C-score* is the "cleavage site" score. For each position in the submitted sequence, a C-score is reported, which should only be significantly high at the cleavage site. Confusion is often seen with the position numbering of the cleavage site. When a cleavage site position is referred to by a single number, the number indicates the first residue in the mature protein. This means that a reported cleavage site between amino acid 26-27 corresponds to the mature protein starting at (and include) position 27.

Y-max is a derivative of the C-score combined with the S-score resulting in a better cleavage site prediction than the raw C-score alone. This is due to the fact that multiple high-peaking C-scores can be found in one sequence, where only one is the true cleavage site. The cleavage site is assigned from the Y-score where the slope of the S-score is steep and a significant C-score is found.

The *S-mean* is the average of the S-score, ranging from the N-terminal amino acid to the amino acid assigned with the highest Y-max score, thus the S-mean score is calculated for the length of the predicted signal peptide. The S-mean score was in SignalP version 2.0 used as the criteria for discrimination of secretory and non-secretory proteins.

The *D-score* is introduced in SignalP version 3.0 and is a simple average of the S-mean and Y-max score. The score shows superior discrimination performance of secretory and non-secretory proteins to that of the S-mean score which was used in SignalP version 1 and 2.

For non-secretory proteins all the scores represented in the SignalP3-NN output should ideally be very low.

The hidden Markov model calculates the probability of whether the submitted sequence contains a signal peptide or not. The eukaryotic HMM model also reports the probability of a signal anchor, previously named uncleaved signal peptides. Furthermore, the cleavage site is assigned by a probability score together with scores for the n-region, h-region, and c-region of the signal peptide, if it is found.

Other useful resources

http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP

Pubmed entries for some of the original papers.
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=pubmed&cmd=Retrieve&dopt=AbstractPlus&list_uids=9051728&query_hl=1&itool=pubmed_docsum

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=PubMed&list_uids=15223320&dopt=Citation

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16.2 Protein charge

In *CLC Combined Workbench* you can create a graph in the electric charge of a protein as a function of pH. This is particularly useful for finding the net charge of the protein at a given pH. This knowledge can be used e.g. in relation to isoelectric focusing on the first dimension of 2D-gel electrophoresis. The isoelectric point (pI) is found where the net charge of the protein is zero. The calculation of the protein charge does not include knowledge about any potential post-translational modifications the protein may have.

The pKa values reported in the literature may differ slightly, thus resulting in different looking graphs of the protein charge plot compared to other programs.

In order to calculate the protein charge:

Select a protein sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Create Protein Charge Plot ( )**

or **right-click a protein sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Create Protein Charge Plot ( )**

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 16.6:

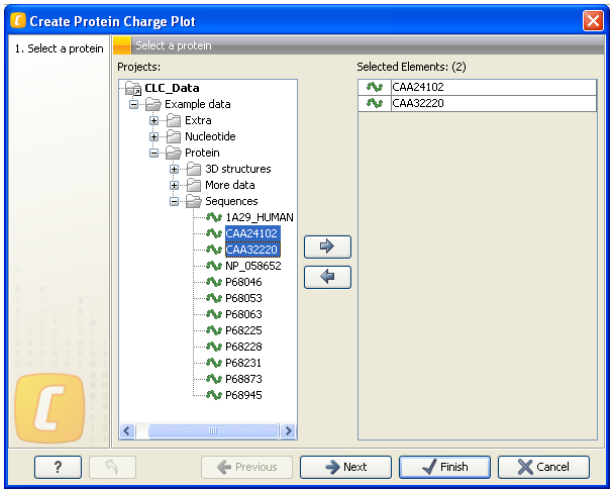

Figure 16.6: *Choosing protein sequences to calculate protein charge.*

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in

the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

You can perform the analysis on several protein sequences at a time. This will result in one output graph showing protein charge graphs for the individual proteins.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

16.2.1 Modifying the layout

Figure 16.7 shows the electrical charges for three proteins. In the **Side Panel** to the right, you can modify the layout of the graph.

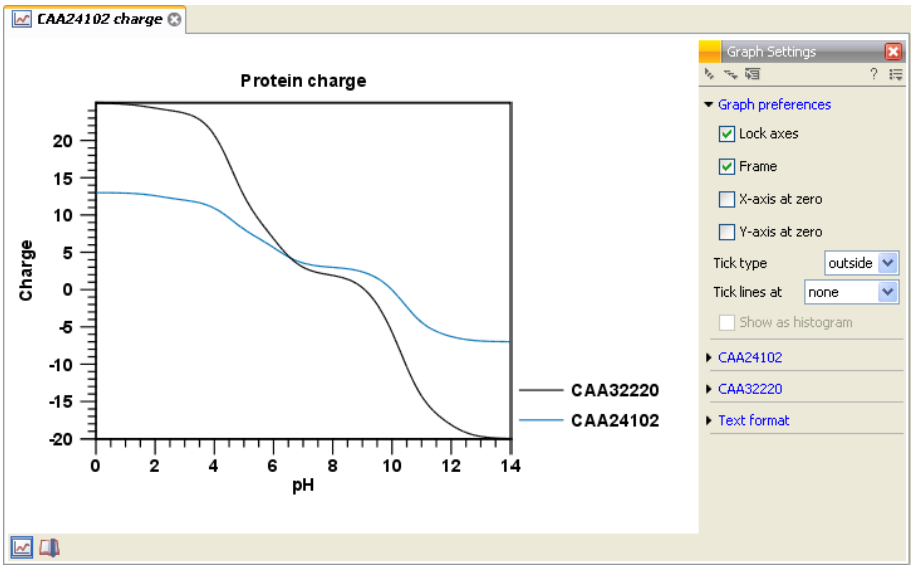

Figure 16.7: *View of the protein charge.*

Graph preferences

The **Graph preferences** apply to the whole graph:

- **Lock axis.**
  This will always show the axis even though the plot is zoomed to a detailed level.
- **Frame.**
  Toggles the frame of the graph.
- **X-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the x-axis at zero.
- **Y-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the y-axis at zero.
- **Tick type**
  - outside
  - inside

- **Tick lines at.**
  Shows a grid behind the graph.
  - none
  - major ticks
- **Show as histogram**
  For some data-series it is possible to see it as a histogram rather than a line plot.

Preferences for each protein

Underneath the **Graph preferences** you will find is a set of preferences for each protein in the graph. These preferences only apply to the curve for the specific protein.

- **Dot type**
  - none
  - cross
  - plus
  - square
  - diamond
  - circle
  - triangle
  - reverse triangle
  - dot
- **Dot color.** Allows you to choose between many different colors.
- **Line width**
  - thin
  - medium
  - wide
- **Line type**
  - none
  - line
  - long dash
  - short dash
- **Line color.** Allows you to choose between many different colors.

These settings will apply to both the curve and the legend.

Modifying labels and legends

Click the title of the graph, the axis-titles or the legend to edit the text.

16.3 Transmembrane helix prediction

Many proteins are integral membrane proteins. Most membrane proteins have hydrophobic regions which span the hydrophobic core of the membrane bi-layer and hydrophilic regions located on the outside or the inside of the membrane. Many receptor proteins have several transmembrane helices spanning the cellular membrane.

For prediction of transmembrane helices, *CLC Combined Workbench* uses TMHMM version 2.0 [Krogh et al., 2001] located at `http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/TMHMM/`, thus an active internet connection is required to run the transmembrane helix prediction. Additional information on THMHH and Center for Biological Sequence analysis (CBS) can be found at `http://www.cbs.dtu.dk` and in the original research paper [Krogh et al., 2001].

In order to use the transmembrane helix prediction, *you need to download the plug-in* using the plug-in manager (see section 1.7.1).

When the plug-in is downloaded and installed, you can use it to predict transmembrane helices:

Select a protein sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Transmembrane Helix Prediction ( )**

or **right-click a protein sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Transmembrane Helix Prediction ( )**

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

The predictions obtained can either be shown as annotations on the sequence, in a table or as the detailed and text output from the TMHMM method.

- Add annotations to sequence
- Create table
- Text

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

You can perform the analysis on several protein sequences at a time. This will add annotations to all the sequences and open a view for each sequence if a transmembrane helix is found. If a transmembrane helix is not found a dialog box will be presented.

After running the prediction as described above, the protein sequence will show predicted transmembrane helices as annotations on the original sequence (see figure 16.8). Moreover, annotations showing the topology will be shown. That is, which part the proteins is located on the inside or on the outside.

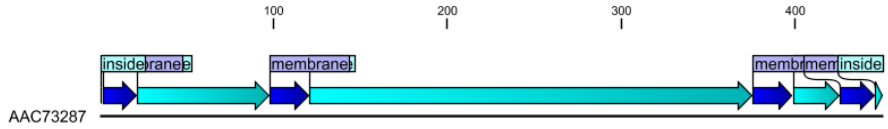

Figure 16.8: *Transmembrane segments shown as annotation on the sequence and the topology.*

Each annotation will carry a tooltip note saying that the corresponding annotation is predicted with

TMHMM version 2.0. Additional notes can be added through the **Edit annotation** ( ) right-click mouse menu. See section 10.3.2.

Undesired annotations can be removed through the **Delete Annotation ( )** right-click mouse menu. See section 10.3.4.

16.4 Antigenicity

CLC Combined Workbench can help to identify antigenic regions in protein sequences in different ways, using different algorithms. The algorithms provided in the Workbench, merely plot an index of antigenicity over the sequence.

Two different methods are available.

[Welling et al., 1985] Welling et al. used information on the relative occurrence of amino acids in antigenic regions to make a scale which is useful for prediction of antigenic regions. This method is better than the Hopp-Woods scale of hydrophobicity which is also used to identify antigenic regions.

A semi-empirical method for prediction of antigenic regions has been developed [Kolaskar and Tongaonkar, 1990]. This method also includes information of surface accessibility and flexibility and at the time of publication the method was able to predict antigenic determinants with an accuracy of 75%.

Note! Similar results from the two method can not always be expected as the two methods are based on different training sets.

16.4.1 Plot of antigenicity

Displaying the antigenicity for a protein sequence in a plot is done in the following way:

> **select a protein sequence in Navigation Area | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Protein Analyses ( ) | Create Antigenicity Plot ( )**

This opens a dialog. The first step allows you to add or remove sequences. Clicking **Next** takes you through to **Step 2**, which is displayed in figure 16.9.

The **Window size** is the width of the window where, the antigenicity is calculated. The wider the window, the less volatile the graph. You can chose from a number of antigenicity scales. Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The result can be seen in figure 16.10.

CLC Combined Workbench offers some **View Preferences** for the view of the antigenicity plot. The drop down menus are opened by clicking the black triangular arrows.

There are two kinds of view preferences. The graph preferences and preferences for the kind of hydrophobicity scale used to calculate the graph, e.g. Welling.

The **Graph preferences** include:

- **Lock axis.**
  This will always show the axis even though the plot is zoomed to a detailed level.

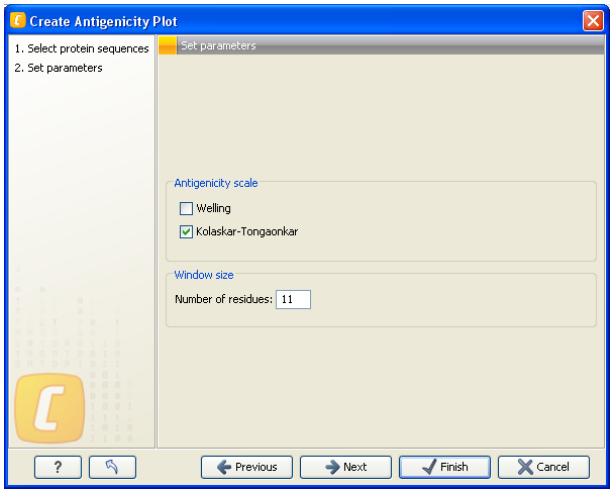

Figure 16.9: *Step two in the Antigenicity Plot allows you to choose different antigenicity scales and the window size.*

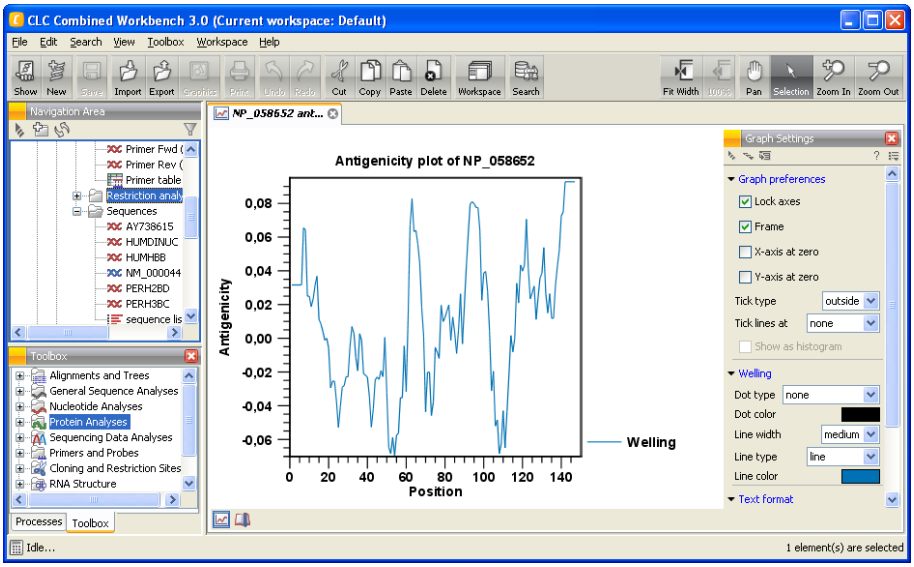

Figure 16.10: *The result of the antigenicity plot calculation and the associated Side Panel.*

- **Frame.**
  Toggles the frame of the graph.
- **X-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the x-axis at zero.
- **Y-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the y-axis at zero.
- **Tick type**
  - outside
  - inside
- **Tick lines at.**
  Shows a grid behind the graph.

  - none
  - major ticks

- **Show as histogram**
  For some data-series it is possible to see it as a histogram rather than a line plot.

The preferences for the different scales are identical and include the following:

- **Dot type.** Lets you choose the marking of dots in the graph.
- **Dot color.** Lets you choose the color of the dots.
- **Line width.** Setting the width of the line connecting the dots.
- **Line type.** Setting the type of the line connecting the dots.
- **Line color.** Lets you choose the color of the line connecting the dots.

The level of antigenicity is calculated on the basis of the different scales. The different scales add different values to each type of amino acid. The antigenicity score is then calculated as the sum of the values in a 'window', which is a particular range of the sequence. The window length can be set from 5 to 25 residues. The wider the window, the less fluctuations in the antigenicity scores.

16.4.2 Antigenicity graphs along sequence

Antigenicity graphs along the sequence can be displayed using the **Side Panel**. The functionality is similar to hydrophobicity (see section 16.5.2).

16.5 Hydrophobicity

CLC Combined Workbench can calculate the hydrophobicity of protein sequences in different ways, using different algorithms. (See section 16.5.3). Furthermore, hydrophobicity of sequences can be displayed as hydrophobicity plots and as graphs along sequences. In addition, *CLC Combined Workbench* can calculate hydrophobicity for several sequences at the same time, and for alignments.

16.5.1 Hydrophobicity plot

To display the hydrophobicity for a protein sequence in a plot is done in the following way:

select a protein sequence in Navigation Area | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Protein Analyses () | Create Hydrophobicity Plot ()

This opens a dialog. The first step allows you to add or remove sequences. Clicking **Next** takes you through to **Step 2**, which is displayed in figure 16.11.

The **Window size** is the width of the window where the hydrophobicity is calculated. The wider the window, the less volatile the graph. You can chose from a number of hydrophobicity scales

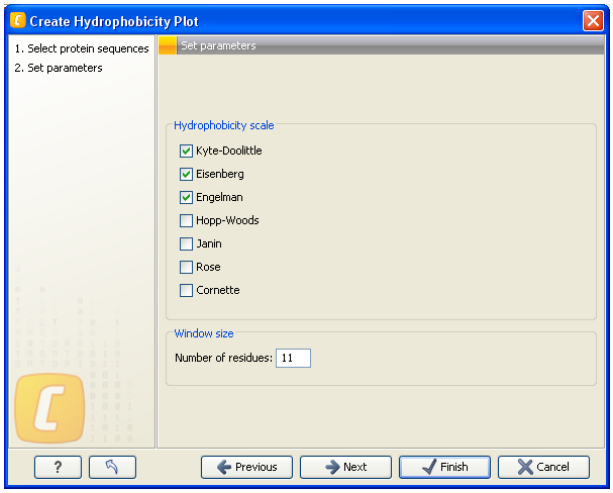

Figure 16.11: *Step two in the Hydrophobicity Plot allows you to choose hydrophobicity scale and the window size.*

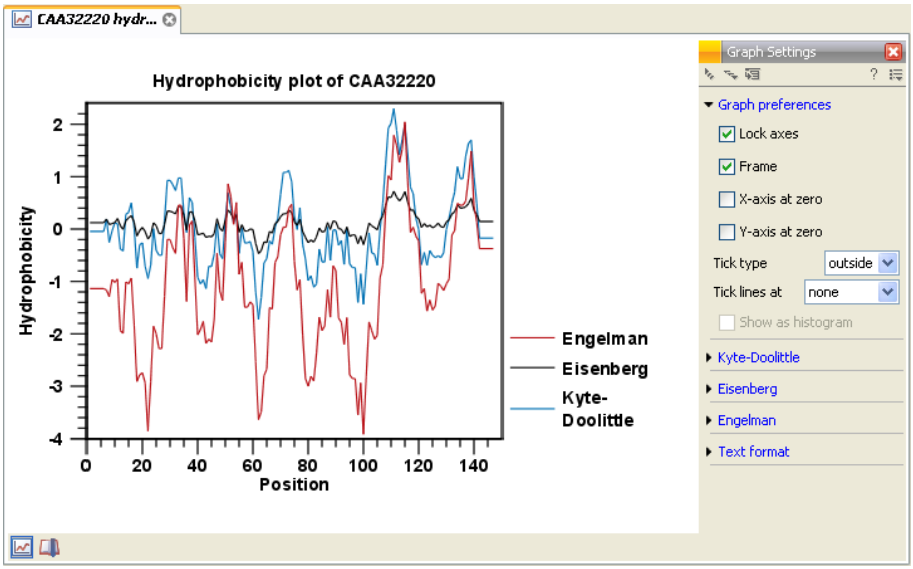

Figure 16.12: *The result of the hydrophobicity plot calculation and the associated Side Panel.*

which are further explained in section 16.5.3 Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The result can be seen in figure 16.12.

In *CLC Combined Workbench* it is possible to change the layout of the hydrophobicity plot through the **Side Panel**. The drop down menus are opened by clicking the black triangular arrows.

There are two kinds of view preferences. The graph preferences and preferences for the kind of hydrophobicity scale used to calculate the graph, e.g. Kyte-Doolittle.

The **Graph preferences** include:

- **Lock axis.**
  This will always show the axis even though the plot is zoomed to a detailed level.
- **Frame.**
  Toggles the frame of the graph.

- **X-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the x-axis at zero.
- **Y-axis at zero.**
  Toggles the y-axis at zero.
- **Tick type**
  - outside
  - inside
- **Tick lines at.**
  Shows a grid behind the graph.
  - none
  - major ticks
- **Show as histogram**
  For some data-series it is possible to see it as a histogram rather than a line plot.

The preferences for the different scales are identical and include the following:

- **Dot type.** Lets you choose the marking of dots in the graph.
- **Dot color.** Lets you choose the color of the dots.
- **Line width.** Setting the width of the line connecting the dots.
- **Line type.** Setting the type of the line connecting the dots.
- **Line color.** Lets you choose the color of the line connecting the dots.

16.5.2 Hydrophobicity graphs along sequence

Hydrophobicity graphs along sequence can be displayed easily by activating the calculations from the **Side Panel** for a sequence.

right-click protein sequence in Navigation Area | Show | Sequence | open Protein info in Side Panel

or **double-click protein sequence in Navigation Area | Show | Sequence | open Protein info in Side Panel**

These actions result in the view displayed in figure 16.13.

The level of hydrophobicity is calculated on the basis of the different scales. The different scales add different values to each type of amino acid. The hydrophobicity score is then calculated as the sum of the values in a 'window', which is a particular range of the sequence. The window length can be set from 5 to 25 residues. The wider the window, the less fluctuations in the hydrophobicity scores. (For more about the theory behind hydrophobicity, see 16.5.3).

In the following we will focus on the different ways that *CLC Combined Workbench* offers to display the hydrophobicity scores. We use Kyte-Doolittle to explain the display of the scores, but the different options are the same for all the scales. Initially there are three options for displaying

Figure 16.13: *The different available scales in Protein info in* **CLC Combined Workbench***.*

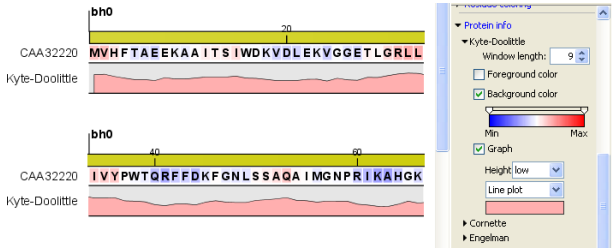

Figure 16.14: *The different ways of displaying the hydrophobicity scores, using the Kyte-Doolittle scale.*

the hydrophobicity scores. You can choose one, two or all three options by selecting the boxes. (See figure 16.14).

Coloring the letters and their background. When choosing coloring of letters or coloring of their background, the color red is used to indicate high scores of hydrophobicity. A 'color-slider' allows you to amplify the scores, thereby emphasizing areas with high (or low, blue) levels of hydrophobicity. The color settings mentioned are default settings. By clicking the color bar just below the color slider you get the option of changing color settings.

Graphs along sequences. When selecting graphs, you choose to display the hydrophobicity scores underneath the sequence. This can be done either by a line-plot or bar-plot, or by coloring. The latter option offers you the same possibilities of amplifying the scores as applies for coloring of letters. The different ways to display the scores when choosing 'graphs' are displayed in figure 16.14. Notice that you can choose the height of the graphs underneath the sequence.

16.5.3 Bioinformatics explained: Protein hydrophobicity

Calculation of hydrophobicity is important to the identification of various protein features. This can be membrane spanning regions, antigenic sites, exposed loops or buried residues. Usually, these calculations are shown as a plot along the protein sequence, making it easy to identify the location of potential protein features.

The hydrophobicity is calculated by sliding a fixed size window (of an odd number) over the protein sequence. At the central position of the window, the average hydrophobicity of the entire window is plotted (see figure 16.15).

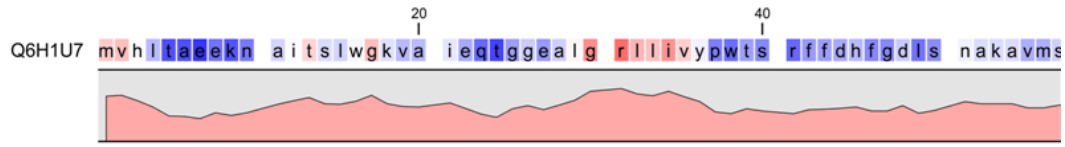

Figure 16.15: *Plot of hydrophobicity along the amino acid sequence. Hydrophobic regions on the sequence have higher numbers according to the graph below the sequence, furthermore hydrophobic regions are colored on the sequence. Red indicates regions with high hydrophobicity and blue indicates regions with low hydrophobicity.*

Hydrophobicity scales

Several hydrophobicity scales have been published for various uses. Many of the commonly used hydrophobicity scales are described below.

Kyte-Doolittle scale. The Kyte-Doolittle scale is widely used for detecting hydrophobic regions in proteins. Regions with a positive value are hydrophobic. This scale can be used for identifying both surface-exposed regions as well as transmembrane regions, depending on the window size used. Short window sizes of 5-7 generally work well for predicting putative surface-exposed regions. Large window sizes of 19-21 are well suited for finding transmembrane domains if the values calculated are above 1.6 [Kyte and Doolittle, 1982]. These values should be used as a rule of thumb and deviations from the rule may occur.

Engelman scale. The Engelman hydrophobicity scale, also known as the GES-scale, is another scale which can be used for prediction of protein hydrophobicity [Engelman et al., 1986]. As the Kyte-Doolittle scale, this scale is useful for predicting transmembrane regions in proteins.

Eisenberg scale. The Eisenberg scale is a normalized consensus hydrophobicity scale which shares many features with the other hydrophobicity scales [Eisenberg et al., 1984].

Hopp-Woods scale. Hopp and Woods developed their hydrophobicity scale for identification of potentially antigenic sites in proteins. This scale is basically a hydrophilic index where apolar residues have been assigned negative values. Antigenic sites are likely to be predicted when using a window size of 7 [Hopp and Woods, 1983].

Cornette scale. Cornette *et al.* computed an optimal hydrophobicity scale based on 28 published scales [Cornette et al., 1987]. This optimized scale is also suitable for prediction of alpha-helices in proteins.

Rose scale. The hydrophobicity scale by Rose *et al.* is correlated to the average area of buried amino acids in globular proteins [Rose et al., 1985]. This results in a scale which is not showing the helices of a protein, but rather the surface accessibility.

Janin scale. This scale also provides information about the accessible and buried amino acid residues of globular proteins [Janin, 1979].

Welling scale. Welling et al. used information on the relative occurrence of amino acids in antigenic regions to make a scale which is useful for prediction of antigenic regions. This method is better than the Hopp-Woods scale of hydrophobicity which is also used to identify antigenic regions.

Kolaskar-Tongaonkar. A semi-empirical method for prediction of antigenic regions has been developed [Kolaskar and Tongaonkar, 1990]. This method also includes information of surface

aa	aa	Kyte-Doolittle	Hopp-Woods	Cornette	Eisenberg	Rose	Janin	Engelman (GES)
A	Alanine	1.80	-0.50	0.20	0.62	0.74	0.30	1.60
C	Cysteine	2.50	-1.00	4.10	0.29	0.91	0.90	2.00
D	Aspartic acid	-3.50	3.00	-3.10	-0.90	0.62	-0.60	-9.20
E	Glutamic acid	-3.50	3.00	-1.80	-0.74	0.62	-0.70	-8.20
F	Phenylalanine	2.80	-2.50	4.40	1.19	0.88	0.50	3.70
G	Glycine	-0.40	0.00	0.00	0.48	0.72	0.30	1.00
H	Histidine	-3.20	-0.50	0.50	-0.40	0.78	-0.10	-3.00
I	Isoleucine	4.50	-1.80	4.80	1.38	0.88	0.70	3.10
K	Lysine	-3.90	3.00	-3.10	-1.50	0.52	-1.80	-8.80
L	Leucine	3.80	-1.80	5.70	1.06	0.85	0.50	2.80
M	Methionine	1.90	-1.30	4.20	0.64	0.85	0.40	3.40
N	Asparagine	-3.50	0.20	-0.50	-0.78	0.63	-0.50	-4.80
P	Proline	-1.60	0.00	-2.20	0.12	0.64	-0.30	-0.20
Q	Glutamine	-3.50	0.20	-2.80	-0.85	0.62	-0.70	-4.10
R	Arginine	-4.50	3.00	1.40	-2.53	0.64	-1.40	-12.3
S	Serine	-0.80	0.30	-0.50	-0.18	0.66	-0.10	0.60
T	Threonine	-0.70	-0.40	-1.90	-0.05	0.70	-0.20	1.20
V	Valine	4.20	-1.50	4.70	1.08	0.86	0.60	2.60
W	Tryptophan	-0.90	-3.40	1.00	0.81	0.85	0.30	1.90
Y	Tyrosine	-1.30	-2.30	3.20	0.26	0.76	-0.40	-0.70

Table 16.1: *Hydrophobicity scales. This table shows seven different hydrophobicity scales which are generally used for prediction of e.g. transmembrane regions and antigenicity.*

accessibility and flexibility and at the time of publication the method was able to predict antigenic determinants with an accuracy of 75%.

Surface Probability. Display of surface probability based on the algorithm by Emini et al., 1985. This algorithm has been used to identify antigenic determinants on the surface of proteins.

Chain Flexibility. isplay of backbone chain flexibility based on the algorithm by Karplus and Schulz, 1985. It is known that chain flexibility is an indication of a putative antigenic determinant.

Many more scales have been published throughout the last three decades. Even though more advanced methods have been developed for prediction of membrane spanning regions, the simple and very fast calculations are still highly used.

Other useful resources

AAindex: Amino acid index database
http://www.genome.ad.jp/dbget/aaindex.html

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16.6 Pfam domain search

With *CLC Combined Workbench* you can perform a search for Pfam domains on protein sequences. The Pfam database at http://pfam.sanger.ac.uk/ is a large collection of multiple sequence alignments that covers approximately 9318 protein domains and protein families [Bateman et al., 2004]. Based on the individual domain alignments, profile HMMs have been developed. These profile HMMs can be used to search for domains in unknown sequences.

Many proteins have a unique combination of domains which can be responsible, for instance, for the catalytic activities of enzymes. Pfam was initially developed to aid the annotation of the *C. elegans* genome. Annotating unknown sequences based on pairwise alignment methods by simply transferring annotation from a known protein to the unknown partner does not take domain organization into account [Galperin and Koonin, 1998]. An unknown protein may be annotated wrongly, for instance, as an enzyme if the pairwise alignment only finds a regulatory domain.

Using the Pfam search option in *CLC Combined Workbench*, you can search for domains in sequence data which otherwise do not carry any annotation information. The Pfam search option adds all found domains onto the protein sequence which was used for the search. If domains of no relevance are found they can easily be removed as described in section 10.3.4. Setting a lower cutoff value will result in fewer domains.

In *CLC Combined Workbench* we have implemented our own HMM algorithm for prediction of the Pfam domains. Thus, we do not use the original HMM implementation,
HMMER http://hmmer.wustl.edu/ for domain prediction. We find the most probable state path/alignment through each profile HMM by the Viterbi algorithm and based on that we derive a new null model by averaging over the emission distributions of all *M* and *I* states that appear in the state path (*M* is a match state and *I* is an insert state). From that model we now arrive at an additive correction to the original bit-score, like it is done in the original HMMER algorithm.

In order to conduct the Pfam search:

Select a protein sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Protein Analyses** ( ) | **Pfam Domain Search** ( )

or **right-click a protein sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses** ( ) | **Pfam Domain Search** ( )

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

You can perform the analysis on several protein sequences at a time. This will add annotations to all the sequences and open a view for each sequence. Click **Next** to adjust parameters (see figure 16.16).

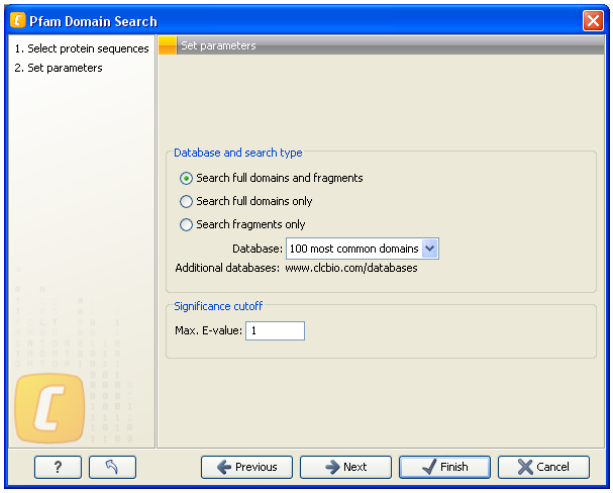

Figure 16.16: *Setting parameters for Pfam domain search.*

16.6.1 Pfam search parameters

- **Choose database and search type**
  When searching for Pfam domains it is possible to choose different databases and specify the search for full domains or fragments of domains. Only the 100 most frequent domains are included as default in *CLC Combined Workbench*. Additional databases can be downloaded directly from CLC bio's web-site at http://www.clcbio.com/resources.
  - **Search full domains and fragments.** This option allows you to search both for full domain but also for partial domains. This could be the case if a domain extends beyond the ends of a sequence
  - **Search full domains only.** Selecting this option only allows searches for full domains.
  - **Search fragments only.** Only partial domains will be found.
  - **Database.** Only the 100 most frequent domains are included as default in *CLC Combined Workbench*, but additional databases can be downloaded and installed as described in section 16.6.2.
- **Set significance cutoff.** The E-value (expectation value) is the number of hits that would be expected to have a score equal to or better than this value, by chance alone. This means that a good E-value which gives a confident prediction is much less than 1. E-values around 1 is what is expected by chance. Thus, the lower the E-value, the more specific the search for domains will be. Only positive numbers are allowed.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will open a view showing the found domains as annotations on the original sequence (see figure 16.17). If you have selected several sequences, a corresponding number of views will be opened.

Each found domain will be represented as an annotation of the type **Region**. More information on each found domain is available through the tooltip, including detailed information on the identity score which is the basis for the prediction.

For a more detailed description of the provided scores through the tooltip look at http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Software/Pfam/help/scores.shtml.

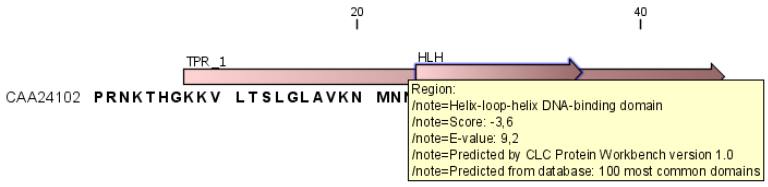

Figure 16.17: *Domains annotations based on Pfam.*

16.6.2 Download and installation of additional Pfam databases

Additional databases can be downloaded as a resource using the **Plug-in manager** ( ) (see section 1.7.4).

If you are not able to download directly from the Plug-in manager,

16.7 Secondary structure prediction

An important issue when trying to understand protein function is to know the actual structure of the protein. Many questions that are raised by molecular biologists are directly targeted at protein structure. The alpha-helix forms a coiled rodlike structure whereas a beta-sheet show an extended sheet-like structure. Some proteins are almost devoid of alpha-helices such as chymotrypsin (PDB_ID: 1AB9) whereas others like myoglobin (PDB_ID: 101M) have a very high content of alpha-helices.

With *CLC Combined Workbench* one can predict the secondary structure of proteins very fast. Predicted elements are alpha-helix, beta-sheet (same as beta-strand) and other regions.

Based on extracted protein sequences from the protein databank (`http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/`) a hidden Makov model (HMM) was trained and evaluated for performance. Machine learning methods have shown superior when it comes to prediction of secondary structure of proteins [Rost, 2001]. By far the most common structures are Alpha-helices and beta-sheets which can be predicted, and predicted structures are automatically added to the query as annotation which later can be edited.

In order to predict the secondary structure of proteins:

Select a protein sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Predict secondary structure ( )**

or **right-click a protein sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Predict secondary structure ( )**

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 16.18:

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

You can perform the analysis on several protein sequences at a time. This will add annotations to all the sequences and open a view for each sequence.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

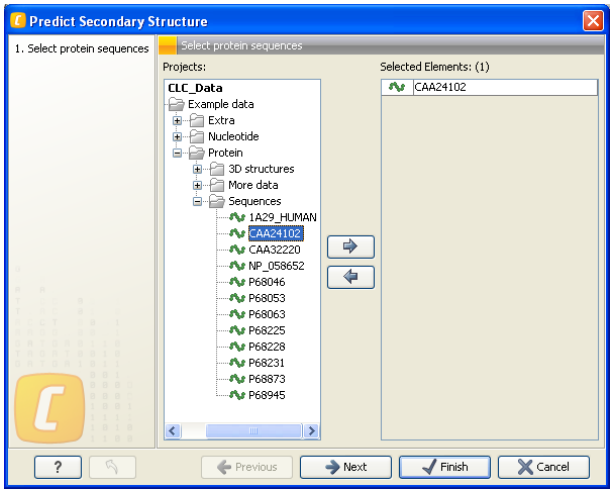

Figure 16.18: *Choosing one or more protein sequences for secondary structure prediction.*

After running the prediction as described above, the protein sequence will show predicted alpha-helices and beta-sheets as annotations on the original sequence (see figure 16.19).

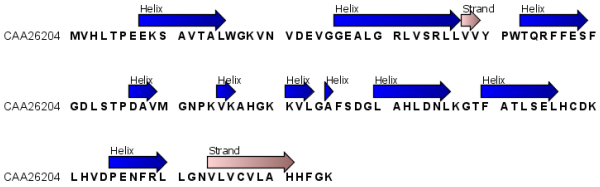

Figure 16.19: *Alpha-helices and beta-strands shown as annotations on the sequence.*

Each annotation will carry a tooltip note saying that the corresponding annotation is predicted with *CLC Combined Workbench*. Additional notes can be added through the **Edit Annotation** ( ) right-click mouse menu. See section 10.3.2.

Undesired alpha-helices or beta-sheets can be removed through the **Delete Annotation** ( ) right-click mouse menu. See section 10.3.4.

16.8 Protein report

CLC Combined Workbench is able to produce protein reports, that allow you to easily generate different kinds of information regarding a protein.

Actually a protein report is a collection of some of the protein analyses which are described elsewhere in this manual.

To create a protein report do the following:

> **Right-click protein in Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses** ( ) | **Create Protein Report** ( )

This opens dialog **Step 1**, where you can choose which proteins to create a report for. When the correct one is chosen, click **Next**.

In dialog **Step 2** you can choose which analyses you want to include in the report. The following list shows which analyses are available and explains where to find more details.

- **Sequence statistics.** See section 14.4 for more about this topic.
- **Plot of charge as function of pH.** See section 16.2 for more about this topic.
- **Plot of hydrophobicity.** See section 16.5 for more about this topic.
- **Plot of local complexity.** See section 14.3 for more about this topic.
- **Dot plot against self.** See section 14.2 for more about this topic.
- **Secondary structure prediction.** See section 16.7 for more about this topic.
- **Pfam domain search.** See section 16.6 for more about this topic.
- **Local BLAST.** See section 12.2 for more about this topic.
- **NCBI BLAST.** See section 12.1 for more about this topic.

When you have selected the relevant analyses, click **Next**. **Step 3** to **Step 7** (if you select all the analyses in **Step 2**) are adjustments of parameters for the different analyses. The parameters are mentioned briefly in relation to the following steps, and you can turn to the relevant chapters or sections (mentioned above) to learn more about the significance of the parameters.

In **Step 3** you can adjust parameters for sequence statistics:

- **Individual Statistics Layout. Comparative** is disabled because reports are generated for one protein at a time.
- **Include Background Distribution of Amino Acids.** Includes distributions from different organisms. Background distributions are calculated from UniProt `www.uniprot.org` version 6.0, dated September 13 2005.

In **Step 4** you can adjust parameters for hydrophobicity plots:

- **Window size.** Width of window on sequence (odd number).
- **Hydrophobicity scales.** Lets you choose between different scales.

In **Step 5** you can adjust a parameter for complexity plots:

- **Window size.** Width of window on sequence (must be odd).

In **Step 6** you can adjust parameters for dot plots:

- **Score model.** Different scoring matrices.
- **Window size.** Width of window on sequence.

In **Step 7** you can adjust parameters for BLAST search:

- **Program.** Lets you choose between different BLAST programs.
- **Database.** Lets you limit your search to a particular database.

16.8.1 Protein report output

An example of Protein report can be seen in figure 16.20.

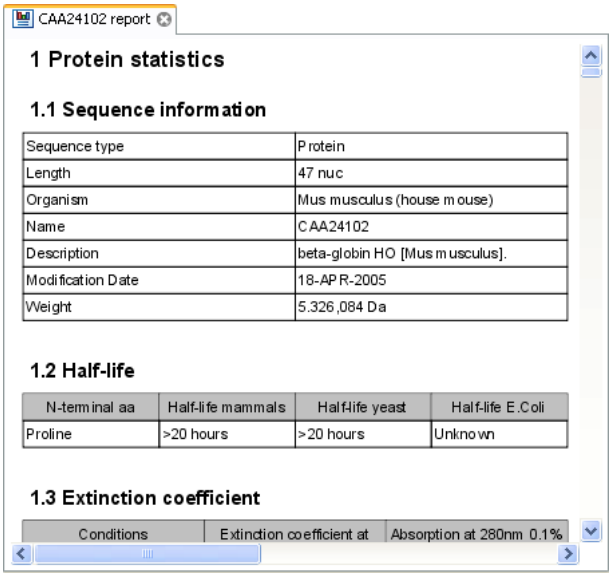

Figure 16.20: *A protein report. There is a Table of Contents in the Side Panel that makes it easy to browse the report.*

By double clicking a graph in the output, this graph is shown in a different view (*CLC Combined Workbench* generates another tab). The report output and the new graph views can be saved by dragging the tab into the **Navigation Area**.

The content of the tables in the report can be copy/pasted out of the program and e.g. into Microsoft Excel. To do so:

Select content of table | Right-click the selection | Copy

16.9 Reverse translation from protein into DNA

A protein sequence can be back-translated into DNA using *CLC Combined Workbench*. Due to degeneracy of the genetic code every amino acid could translate into several different codons (only 20 amino acids but 64 different codons). Thus, the program offers a number of choices for determining which codons should be used. These choices are explained in this section.

In order to make a reverse translation:

Select a protein sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Reverse Translate ( )**

or **right-click a protein sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Protein Analyses ( )** | **Reverse translate ( )**

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 16.21:

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, the sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements. You can translate several protein sequences at a

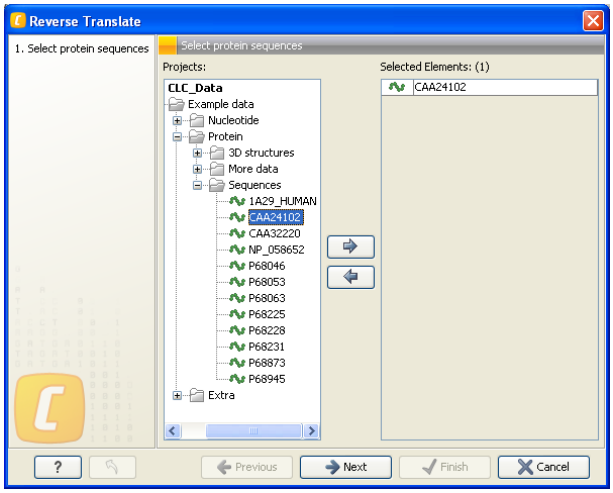

Figure 16.21: *Choosing a protein sequence for reverse translation.*

time.

Click **Next** to adjust the parameters for the translation.

16.9.1 Reverse translation parameters

Figure 16.22 shows the choices for making the translation.

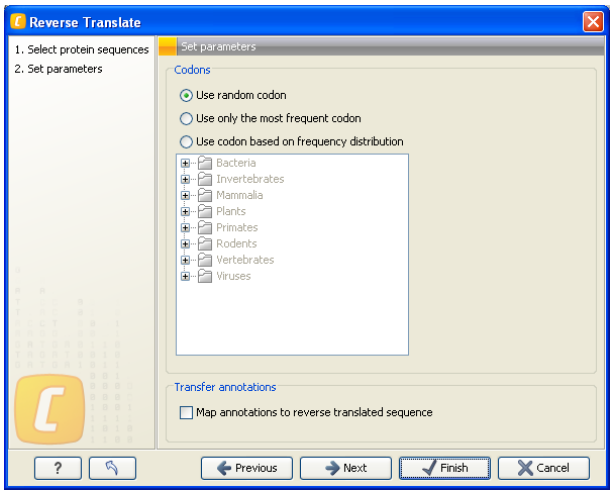

Figure 16.22: *Choosing parameters for the reverse translation.*

- **Use random codon.** This will randomly back-translate an amino acid to a codon without using the translation tables. Every time you perform the analysis you will get a different result.
- **Use only the most frequent codon.** On the basis of the selected translation table, this parameter/option will assign the codon that occurs most often. When choosing this option, the results of performing several reverse translations will always be the same, contrary to the other two options.
- **Use codon based on frequency distribution.** This option is a mix of the other two options. The selected translation table is used to attach weights to each codon based on its

frequency. The codons are assigned randomly with a probability given by the weights. A more frequent codon has a higher probability of being selected. Every time you perform the analysis, you will get a different result. This option yields a result that is closer to the translation behavior of the organism (assuming you choose an appropriate codon frequency table).

- **Map annotations to reverse translated sequence.** If this checkbox is checked, then all annotations on the protein sequence will be mapped to the resulting DNA sequence. In the tooltip on the transferred annotations, there is a note saying that the annotation derives from the original sequence.

The **Codon Frequency Table** is used to determine the frequencies of the codons. Select a frequency table from the list that fits the organism you are working with. A translation table of an organism is created on the basis of counting all the codons in the coding sequences. Every codon in a **Codon Frequency Table** has its own count, frequency (per thousand) and fraction which are calculated in accordance with the occurrences of the codon in the organism.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The newly created nucleotide sequence is shown, and if the analysis was performed on several protein sequences, there will be a corresponding number of views of nucleotide sequences. The new sequence is not saved automatically. To save the sequence, drag it into the **Navigation Area** or press Ctrl + S (⌘ + S on Mac) to show the save dialog.

16.9.2 Bioinformatics explained: Reverse translation

In all living cells containing hereditary material such as DNA, a transcription to mRNA and subsequent a translation to proteins occur. This is of course simplified but is in general what is happening in order to have a steady production of proteins needed for the survival of the cell. In bioinformatics analysis of proteins it is sometimes useful to know the ancestral DNA sequence in order to find the genomic localization of the gene. Thus, the translation of proteins back to DNA/RNA is of particular interest, and is called reverse translation or back-translation.

The Genetic Code

In 1968 the Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to Robert W. Holley, Har Gobind Khorana and Marshall W. Nirenberg for their interpretation of the Genetic Code (http://nobelprize.org/medicine/laureates/1968/). The Genetic Code represents translations of all 64 different codons into 20 different amino acids. Therefore it is no problem to translate a DNA/RNA sequence into a specific protein. But due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, several codons may code for only one specific amino acid. This can be seen in figure 16.23. After the discovery of the genetic code it has been concluded that different organism (and organelles) have genetic codes which are different from the "standard genetic code". Moreover, the amino acid alphabet is no longer limited to 20 amino acids. The 21'st amino acid, selenocysteine, is encoded by an 'UGA' codon which is normally a stop codon. The discrimination of a selenocysteine over a stop codon is carried out by the translation machinery. Selenocysteines are very rare amino acids.

The figure 16.23 and 16.24 represents the Standard Code which is the default translation table.

```
  AAs   = FFLLSSSSYY**CCWWLLLLPPPPHHQQRRRRIIMMTTTTNNKKSS**VVVVAAAADDEEGGGG
Starts = ----------------------------MMMM---------------M------------
Base1  = TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
Base2  = TTTTCCCCAAAAGGGGTTTTCCCCAAAAGGGGTTTTCCCCAAAAGGGGTTTTCCCCAAAAGGGG
Base3  = TCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAGTCAG
```

Figure 16.23: *The Standard Code for translation.*

Second base in codon

First base in codon	U	C	A	G	Third base in codon
U	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	**U**
	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	**C**
	Leu	Ser	STOP	STOP	**A**
	Leu	Ser	STOP	Trp	**G**
C	Leu	Pro	His	Arg	**U**
	Leu	Pro	His	Arg	**C**
	Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg	**A**
	Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg	**G**
A	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	**U**
	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	**C**
	Ile	Thr	Lys	Arg	**A**
	Met	Thr	Lys	Arg	**G**
G	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	**U**
	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	**C**
	Val	Ala	Glu	Gly	**A**
	Val	Ala	Glu	Gly	**G**

Figure 16.24: *The standard genetic code showing amino acids for all 64 possible codons.*

Challenge of reverse translation

A particular protein follows from the translation of a DNA sequence whereas the reverse translation need not have a specific solution according to the Genetic Code. The Genetic Code is degenerate which means that a particular amino acid can be translated into more than one codon. Hence there are ambiguities of the reverse translation.

Solving the ambiguities of reverse translation

In order to solve these ambiguities of reverse translation you can define how to prioritize the codon selection, e.g:

- Choose a codon randomly.
- Select the most frequent codon in a given organism.
- Randomize a codon, but with respect to its frequency in the organism.

As an example we want to translate an alanine to the corresponding codon. Four different codons can be used for this reverse translation; GCU, GCC, GCA or GCG. By picking either one by random choice we will get an alanine.

The most frequent codon, coding for an alanine in *E. coli* is GCG, encoding 33.7% of all alanines. Then comes GCC (25.5%), GCA (20.3%) and finally GCU (15.3%). The data are retrieved from the Codon usage database, see below. Always picking the most frequent codon does not necessarily give the best answer.

By selecting codons from a distribution of calculated codon frequencies, the DNA sequence obtained after the reverse translation, holds the correct (or nearly correct) codon distribution. It should be kept in mind that the obtained DNA sequence is not necessarily identical to the original one encoding the protein in the first place, due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

In order to obtain the best possible result of the reverse translation, one should use the codon frequency table from the correct organism or a closely related species. The codon usage of the mitochondrial chromosome are often different from the native chromosome(s), thus mitochondrial codon frequency tables should only be used when working specifically with mitochondria.

Other useful resources

The Genetic Code at NCBI:
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy/Utils/wprintgc.cgi?mode=c

Codon usage database:
http://www.kazusa.or.jp/codon/

Wikipedia on the genetic code
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_code

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16.10 Proteolytic cleavage detection

CLC Combined Workbench offers to analyze protein sequences with respect to cleavage by a selection of proteolytic enzymes. This section explains how to adjust the detection parameters and offers basic information on proteolytic cleavage in general.

16.10.1 Proteolytic cleavage parameters

Given a protein sequence, *CLC Combined Workbench* detects proteolytic cleavage sites in accordance with detection parameters and shows the detected sites as annotations on the sequence and in textual format in a table below the sequence view.

Detection of proteolytic cleavage sites is initiated by:

right-click a protein sequence in Navigation Area | Toolbox | Protein Analyses ( ) | Proteolytic Cleavage, ( )

This opens the dialog shown in figure 16.25:

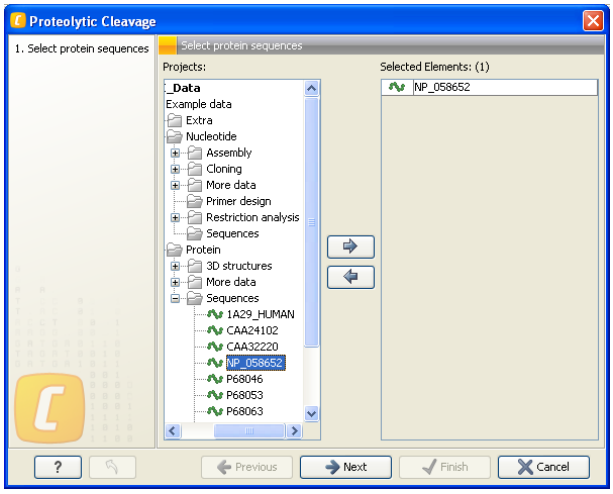

Figure 16.25: *Choosing sequence CAA32220 for proteolytic cleavage.*

CLC Combined Workbench allows you to detect proteolytic cleavages for several sequences at a time. Correct the list of sequences by selecting a sequence and clicking the arrows pointing left and right. Then click **Next** to go to **Step 2**.

In **Step 2** you can select proteolytic cleavage enzymes. The list of available enzymes will be expanded continuously. Presently, the list contains the enzymes shown in figure 16.26. The full list of enzymes and their cleavage patterns can be seen in Appendix, section C.

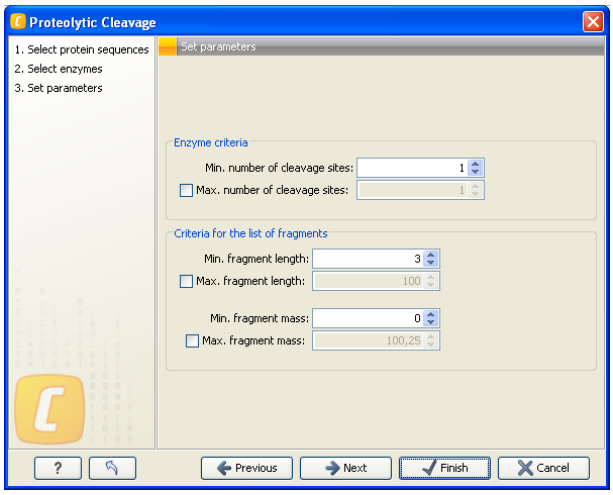

Figure 16.26: *Setting parameters for proteolytic cleavage detection.*

Select the enzymes you want to use for detection. When the relevant enzymes are chosen, click **Next**.

In **Step 3** you can set parameters for the detection. This limits the number of detected cleavages. Figure 16.27 shows an example of how parameters can be set.

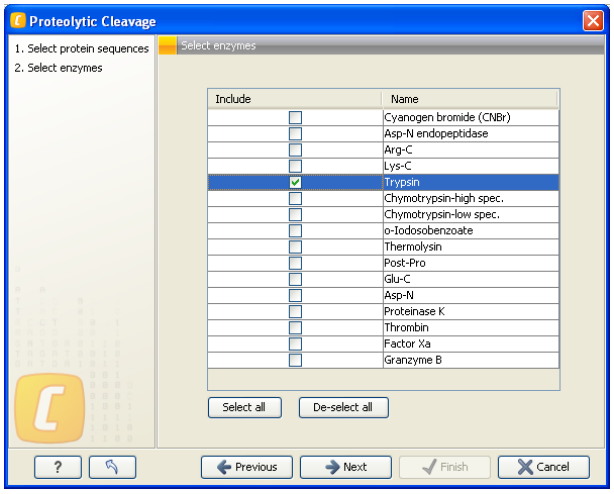

Figure 16.27: *Setting parameters for proteolytic cleavage detection.*

- **Min. and max. number of cleavage sites.** Certain proteolytic enzymes cleave at many positions in the amino acid sequence. For instance proteinase K cleaves at nine different amino acids, regardless of the surrounding residues. Thus, it can be very useful to limit the number of actual cleavage sites before running the analysis.
- **Min. and max. fragment length** Likewise, it is possible to limit the output to only display sequence fragments between a chosen length. Both a lower and upper limit can be chosen.
- **Min. and max. fragment mass** The molecular weight is not necessarily directly correlated to the fragment length as amino acids have different molecular masses. For that reason it is also possible to limit the search for proteolytic cleavage sites to mass-range.

Example!: If you have one protein sequence but you only want to show which enzymes cut between two and four times. Then you should select "The enzymes has more cleavage sites than 2" and select "The enzyme has less cleavage sites than 4". In the next step you should simply select all enzymes. This will result in a view where only enzymes which cut 2,3 or 4 times are presented.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

The result of the detection is displayed in figure 16.28.

Depending on the settings in the program, the output of the proteolytic cleavage site detection will display two views on the screen. The top view shows the actual protein sequence with the predicted cleavage sites indicated by small arrows. If no labels are found on the arrows they can be enabled by setting the labels in the "annotation layout" in the preference panel. The bottom view shows a text output of the detection, listing the individual fragments and information on these.

16.10.2 Bioinformatics explained: Proteolytic cleavage

Proteolytic cleavage is basically the process of breaking the peptide bonds between amino acids in proteins. This process is carried out by enzymes called peptidases, proteases or proteolytic cleavage enzymes.

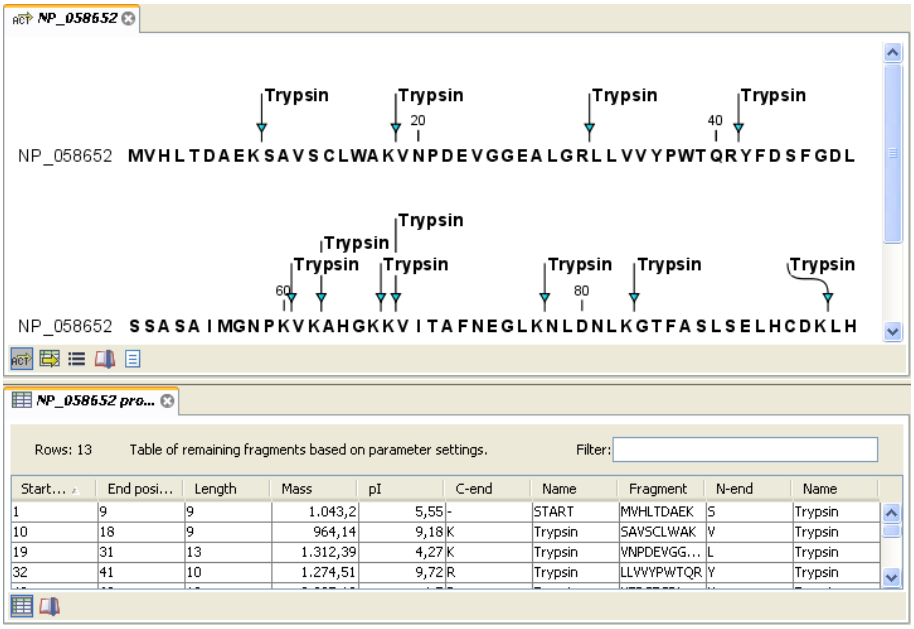

Figure 16.28: *The result of the proteolytic cleavage detection.*

Proteins often undergo proteolytic processing by specific proteolytic enzymes (proteases/peptidases) before final maturation of the protein. Proteins can also be cleaved as a result of intracellular processing of, for example, misfolded proteins. Another example of proteolytic processing of proteins is secretory proteins or proteins targeted to organelles, which have their signal peptide removed by specific signal peptidases before release to the extracellular environment or specific organelle.

Below a few processes are listed where proteolytic enzymes act on a protein substrate.

- N-terminal methionine residues are often removed after translation.
- Signal peptides or targeting sequences are removed during translocation through a membrane.
- Viral proteins that were translated from a monocistronic mRNA are cleaved.
- Proteins or peptides can be cleaved and used as nutrients.
- Precursor proteins are often processed to yield the mature protein.

Proteolytic cleavage of proteins has shown its importance in laboratory experiments where it is often useful to work with specific peptide fragments instead of entire proteins.

Proteases also have commercial applications. As an example proteases can be used as detergents for cleavage of proteinaceous stains in clothing.

The general nomenclature of cleavage site positions of the substrate were formulated by Schechter and Berger, 1967-68 [Schechter and Berger, 1967], [Schechter and Berger, 1968]. They designate the cleavage site between P1-P1', incrementing the numbering in the N-terminal direction of the cleaved peptide bond (P2, P3, P4, etc..). On the carboxyl side of the cleavage site the numbering is incremented in the same way (P1', P2', P3' etc.). This is visualized in figure 16.29.

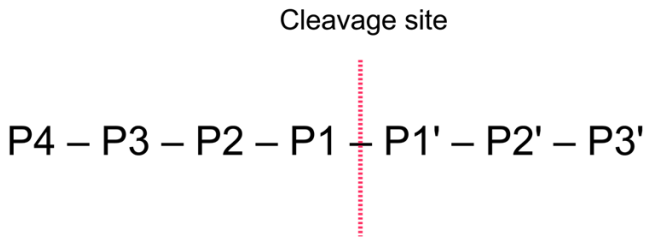

Figure 16.29: *Nomenclature of the peptide substrate. The substrate is cleaved between position P1-P1'.*

Proteases often have a specific recognition site where the peptide bond is cleaved. As an example trypsin only cleaves at lysine or arginine residues, but it does not matter (with a few exceptions) which amino acid is located at position P1'(carboxyterminal of the cleavage site). Another example is trombin which cleaves if an arginine is found in position P1, but not if a D or E is found in position P1' at the same time. (See figure 16.30).

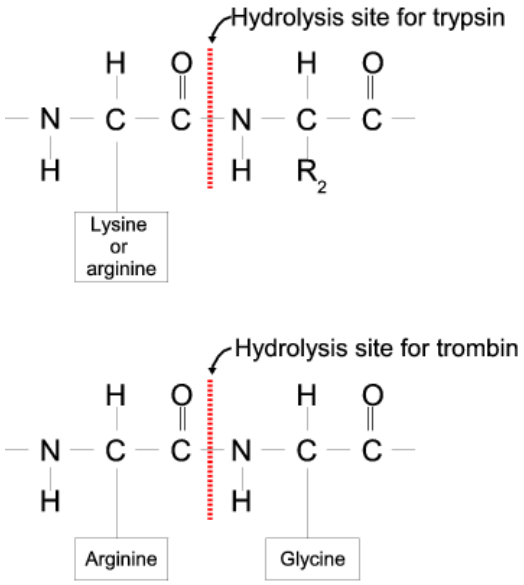

Figure 16.30: *Hydrolysis of the peptide bond between two amino acids. Trypsin cleaves unspecifically at lysine or arginine residues whereas trombin cleaves at arginines if asparate or glutamate is absent.*

Bioinformatics approaches are used to identify potential peptidase cleavage sites. Fragments can be found by scanning the amino acid sequence for patterns which match the corresponding cleavage site for the protease. When identifying cleaved fragments it is relatively important to know the calculated molecular weight and the isoelectric point.

Other useful resources

The Peptidase Database: http://merops.sanger.ac.uk/

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Chapter 17

Primers

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CLC Combined Workbench offers graphically and algorithmically advanced design of primers and probes for various purposes. This chapter begins with a brief introduction to the general concepts of the primer designing process. Then follows instructions on how to adjust parameters for primers, how to inspect and interpret primer properties graphically and how to interpret, save and analyze the output of the primer design analysis. After a description of the different reaction types for which primers can be designed, the chapter closes with sections on how to match primers with other sequences and how to create a primer order.

17.1 Primer design - an introduction

Primer design can be accessed in two ways:

select sequence | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Primers and Probes (** **)** | **Design Primers (** **)** | **OK**

or **right-click sequence** | **Show** | **Primer (** **)**

In the primer view (see figure 17.1), the basic options for viewing the template sequence are the same as for the standard sequence viewer. See section 10.1 for an explanation of these options.

Note! This means that annotations such as e.g. known SNP's or exons can be displayed on the template sequence to guide the choice of primer regions. Also, traces in sequencing reads can be shown along with the structure to guide e.g. the re-sequencing of poorly resolved regions.

Figure 17.1: *The initial view of the sequence used for primer design.*

17.1.1 General concept

The concept of the primer view is that the user first chooses the desired reaction type for the session in the Primer Parameters preference group, e.g. *Standard PCR*. Reflecting the choice of reaction type, it is now possibly to select one or more regions on the sequence and to use the right-click mouse menu to designate these as primer or probe regions (see figure 17.2).

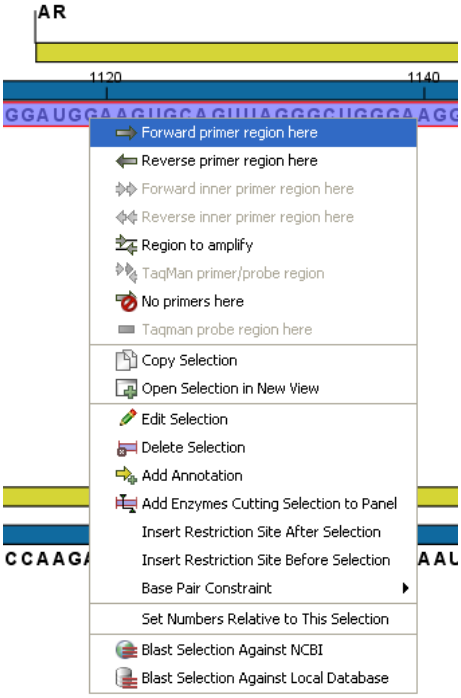

Figure 17.2: *Right-click menu allowing you to specify regions for the primer design*

When a region is chosen, graphical information about the properties of all possible primers in this region will appear in lines beneath it. By default, information is showed using a compact mode but the user can change to a more detailed mode in the Primer information preference group.

The number of information lines reflects the chosen length interval for primers and probes. In the compact information mode one line is shown for every possible primer-length and each of these lines contain information regarding all possible primers of the given length. At each potential primer starting position, a circular information point is shown which indicates whether the primer fulfills the requirements set in the primer parameters preference group. A green circle indicates a primer which fulfils all criteria and a red circle indicates a primer which fails to meet one or more of the set criteria. For more detailed information, place the mouse cursor over the circle representing the primer of interest. A tool-tip will then appear on screen, displaying detailed information about the primer in relation to the set criteria. To locate the primer on the sequence, simply left-click the circle using the mouse.

The various primer parameters can now be varied to explore their effect and the view area will dynamically update to reflect this allowing for a high degree of interactivity in the primer design process.

After having explored the potential primers the user may have found a satisfactory primer and choose to export this directly from the view area using a mouse right-click on the primers information point. This does not allow for any design information to enter concerning the properties of primer/probe pairs or sets e.g. primer pair annealing and T_m difference between primers. If the latter is desired the user can use the **Calculate** button at the bottom of the Primer parameter preference group. This will activate a dialog, the contents of which depends on the chosen mode. Here, the user can set primer-pair specific setting such as allowed or desired T_m

difference and view the single-primer parameters which were chosen in the Primer parameters preference group.

Upon pressing finish, an algorithm will generate all possible primer sets and rank these based on their characteristics and the chosen parameters. A list will appear displaying the 100 most high scoring sets and information pertaining to these. The search result can be saved to the navigator. From the result table, suggested primers or primer/probe sets can be explored since clicking an entry in the table will highlight the associated primers and probes on the sequence. It is also possible to save individual primers or sets from the table through the mouse right-click menu. For a given primer pair, the amplified PCR fragment can also be opened or saved using the mouse right-click menu.

17.1.2 Scoring primers

CLC Combined Workbench employs a proprietary algorithm to rank primer and probe solutions. The algorithm considers both the parameters pertaining to single oligos, such as e.g. the secondary structure score and parameters pertaining to oligo-pairs such as e.g. the oligo pair-annealing score. The ideal score for a solution is 100 and solutions are thus ranked in descending order. Each parameter is assigned an ideal value and a tolerance. Consider for example oligo self-annealing, here the ideal value of the annealing score is 0 and the tolerance corresponds to the maximum value specified in the side panel. The contribution to the final score is determined by how much the parameter deviates from the ideal value and is scaled by the specified tolerance. Hence, a large deviation from the ideal and a small tolerance will give a large deduction in the final score and a small deviation from the ideal and a high tolerance will give a small deduction in the final score.

17.2 Setting parameters for primers and probes

The primer-specific view options and settings are found in the **Primer parameters** preference group in the **Side Panel** to the right of the view (see figure 17.3).

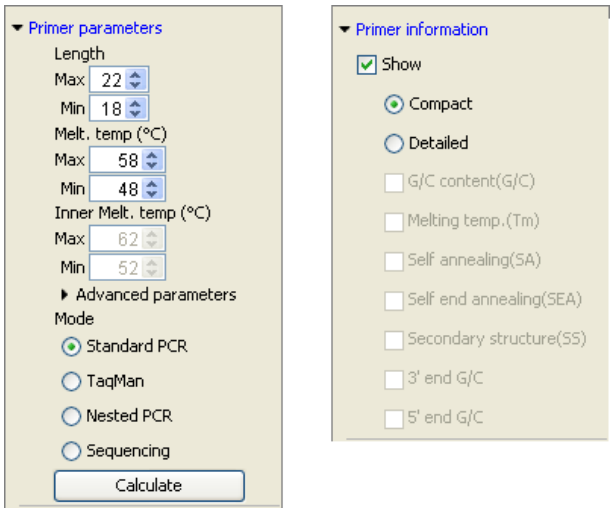

Figure 17.3: *The two groups of primer parameters (in the program, the Primer information group is listed below the other group).*

17.2.1 Primer Parameters

In this preference group a number of criteria can be set, which the selected primers must meet. All the criteria concern *single primers*, as primer pairs are not generated until the **Calculate** button is pressed. Parameters regarding primer and probe sets are described in detail for each reaction mode (see below).

- **Length.** Determines the length interval within which primers can be designed by setting a maximum and a minimum length. The upper and lower lengths allowed by the program are 100 and 10 nucleotides respectively.
- **Melting temperature.** Determines the temperature interval within which primers must lie. When the *Nested PCR* or *TaqMan* reaction type is chosen, the first pair of melting temperature interval settings relate to the outer primer pair i.e. not the probe. Melting temperatures are calculated by a nearest-neighbor model which considers stacking interactions between neighboring bases in the primer-template complex. The model uses state-of-the-art thermodynamic parameters [SantaLucia, 1998] and considers the important contribution from the dangling ends that are present when a short primer anneals to a template sequence [Bommarito et al., 2000]. A number of parameters can be adjusted concerning the reaction mixture and which influence melting temperatures (see below). Melting temperatures are corrected for the presence of monovalent cations using the model of [SantaLucia, 1998] and temperatures are further corrected for the presence of magnesium, deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTP) and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) using the model of [von Ahsen et al., 2001].
- **Inner melting temperature.** This option is only activated when the *Nested PCR* or *TaqMan* mode is selected. In *Nested PCR* mode, it determines the allowed melting temperature interval for the inner/nested pair of primers, and in *TaqMan* mode it determines the allowed temperature interval for the TaqMan probe.
- **Advanced parameters.** A number of less commonly used options
  - **Buffer properties.** A number of parameters concerning the reaction mixture which influence melting temperatures.
    - **Primer concentration.** Specifies the concentration of primers and probes in units of nanomoles (nM)
    - **Salt concentration.** Specifies the concentration of monovalent cations ($[NA^+]$, $[K^+]$ and equivalents) in units of millimoles (mM)
    - **Magnesium concentration.** Specifies the concentration of magnesium cations ($[Mg^{++}]$) in units of millimoles (mM)
    - **dNTP concentration.** Specifies the concentration of deoxynucleotide triphosphates in units of millimoles (mM)
    - **DMSO concentration.** Specifies the concentration of dimethyl sulfoxide in units of volume percent ($vol.\%$)
  - **GC content.** Determines the interval of CG content (% C and G nucleotides in the primer) within which primers must lie by setting a maximum and a minimum GC content.
  - **Self annealing.** Determines the maximum self annealing value of all primers and probes. This determines the amount of base-pairing allowed between two copies of

the same molecule. The self annealing score is measured in number of hydrogen bonds between two copies of primer molecules, with A-T base pairs contributing 2 hydrogen bonds and G-C base pairs contributing 3 hydrogen bonds.

  - **Self end annealing.** Determines the maximum self end annealing value of all primers and probes. This determines the amount of consecutive base pairs allowed between the ends of two copies of the same molecule. This score is also calculated in units of hydrogen bonds between two primer copies of identical primer molecules.
  - **Secondary structure.** Determines the maximum score of the optimal secondary DNA structure found for a primer or probe. Secondary structures are scored by the number of hydrogen bonds in the structure, and 2 extra hydrogen bonds are added for each stacking base-pair in the structure.

- **3' end G/C restrictions.** When this checkbox is selected it is possible to specify restrictions concerning the number of G and C molecules in the 3' end of primers and probes. A low G/C content of the primer/probe 3' end increases the specificity of the reaction. A high G/C content facilitates a tight binding of the oligo to the template but also increases the possibility of mispriming. Unfolding the preference groups yields the following options:

  - **End length.** The number of consecutive terminal nucleotides for which to consider the C/G content
  - **Max no. of G/C.** The maximum number of G and C nucleotides allowed within the specified length interval
  - **Min no. of G/C.** The minimum number of G and C nucleotides required within the specified length interval

- **5' end G/C restrictions.** When this checkbox is selected it is possible to specify restrictions concerning the number of G and C molecules in the 5' end of primers and probes. A high G/C content facilitates a tight binding of the oligo to the template but also increases the possibility of mis-priming. Unfolding the preference groups yields the same options as described above for the 3' end.

- **Mode.** Specifies the reaction type for which primers are designed:

  - **Standard PCR.** Used when the objective is to design primers, or primer pairs, for PCR amplification of a single DNA fragment.
  - **Nested PCR.** Used when the objective is to design two primer pairs for nested PCR amplification of a single DNA fragment.
  - **Sequencing.** Used when the objective is to design primers for DNA sequencing.
  - **TaqMan.** Used when the objective is to design a primer pair and a probe for TaqMan quantitative PCR.

  Each mode is described further below.

- **Calculate.** Pushing this button will activate the algorithm for designing primers

17.3 Graphical display of primer information

The primer information settings are found in the **Primer information** preference group in the **Side Panel** to the right of the view (see figure 17.3).

There are two different ways to display the information relating to a single primer, the detailed and the compact view. Both are shown below the primer regions selected on the sequence.

17.3.1 Compact information mode

This mode offers a condensed overview of all the primers that are available in the selected region. When a region is chosen primer information will appear in lines beneath it (see figure 17.4).

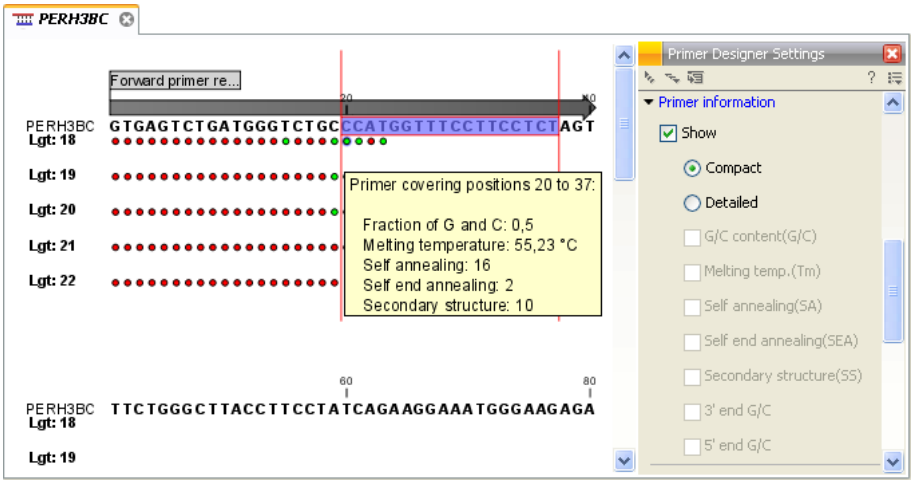

Figure 17.4: *Compact information mode*

The number of information lines reflects the chosen length interval for primers and probes. One line is shown for every possible primer-length, if the length interval is widened more lines will appear. At each potential primer starting position a circle is shown which indicates whether the primer fulfills the requirements set in the primer parameters preference group. A green primer indicates a primer which fulfils all criteria and a red primer indicates a primer which fails to meet one or more of the set criteria. For more detailed information, place the mouse cursor over the circle representing the primer of interest. A tool-tip will then appear on screen displaying detailed information about the primer in relation to the set criteria. To locate the primer on the sequence, simply left-click the circle using the mouse.

The various primer parameters can now be varied to explore their effect and the view area will dynamically update to reflect this. If e.g. the allowed melting temperature interval is widened more green circles will appear indicating that more primers now fulfill the set requirements and if e.g. a requirement for 3' G/C content is selected, rec circles will appear at the starting points of the primers which fail to meet this requirement.

17.3.2 Detailed information mode

In this mode a very detailed account is given of the properties of all the available primers. When a region is chosen primer information will appear in groups of lines beneath it (see figure 17.5).

The number of information-line-groups reflects the chosen length interval for primers and probes. One group is shown for every possible primer length. Within each group, a line is shown for every primer property that is selected from the checkboxes in the primer information preference group. Primer properties are shown at each potential primer starting position and are of two types:

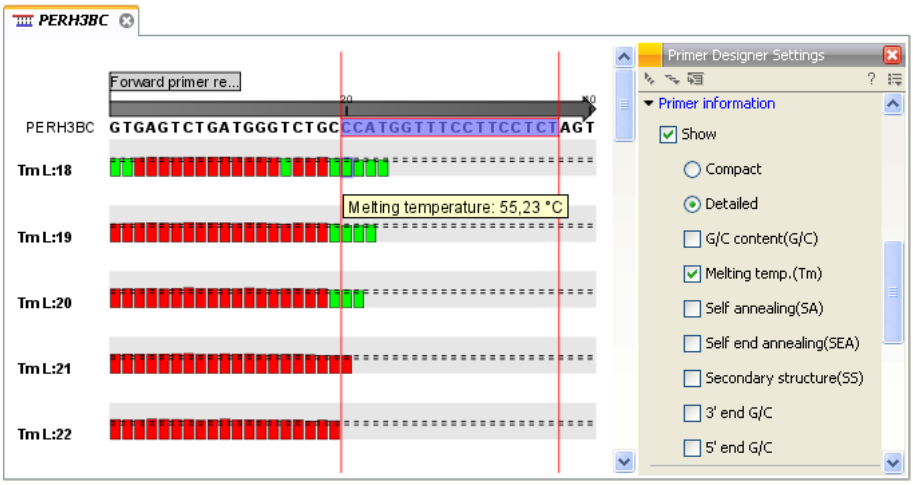

Figure 17.5: *Detailed information mode*

Properties with numerical values are represented by bar plots. A green bar represents the starting point of a primer that meets the set requirement and a red bar represents the starting point of a primer that fails to meet the set requirement:

- G/C content
- Melting temperature
- Self annealing score
- Self end annealing score
- Secondary structure score

Properties with Yes - No values. If a primer meets the set requirement a green circle will be shown at its starting position and if it fails to meet the requirement a red dot is shown at its starting position:

- C/G at 3' end
- C/G at 5' end

Common to both sorts of properties is that mouse clicking an information point (filled circle or bar) will cause the region covered by the associated primer to be selected on the sequence.

17.4 Output from primer design

The output generated by the primer design algorithm is a table of proposed primers or primer pairs with the accompanying information (see figure 17.6).

In the preference panel of the table, it is possible to customize which columns are shown in the table. See the sections below on the different reaction types for a description of the available information.

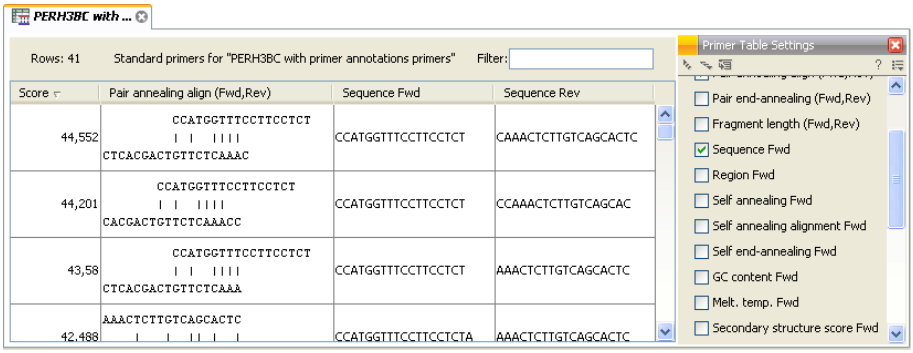

Figure 17.6: *Proposed primers*

The columns in the output table can be sorted by the present information. For example the user can choose to sort the available primers by their score (default) or by their self annealing score, simply by right-clicking the column header.

The output table interacts with the accompanying primer editor such that when a proposed combination of primers and probes is selected in the table the primers and probes in this solution are highlighted on the sequence.

17.4.1 Saving primers

Primer solutions in a table row can be saved by selecting the row and using the right-click mouse menu. This opens a dialog that allows the user to save the primers to the desired location. Primers and probes are saved as DNA sequences in the program. This means that all available DNA analyzes can be performed on the saved primers, including BLAST. Furthermore, the primers can be edited using the standard sequence viewer to introduce e.g. mutations and restriction sites.

17.4.2 Saving PCR fragments

The PCR fragment generated from the primer pair in a given table row can also be saved by selecting the row and using the right-click mouse menu. This opens a dialog that allows the user to save the fragment to the desired location. The fragment is saved as a DNA sequence and the position of the primers is added as annotation on the sequence. The fragment can then be used for further analysis and included in e.g. an in-silico cloning experiment using the cloning editor.

17.4.3 Adding primer binding annotation

You can add an annotation to the template sequence specifying the binding site of the primer: Right-click the primer in the table and select **Mark primer annotation on sequence**.

17.5 Standard PCR

This mode is used to design primers for a PCR amplification of a single DNA fragment.

17.5.1 User input

In this mode the user must define either a *Forward primer region*, a *Reverse primer region*, or both. These are defined by making a selection on the sequence and right-clicking the selection. It is also possible to define a *Region to amplify* in which case a forward- and a reverse primer region are automatically placed so as to ensure that the designated region will be included in the PCR fragment. If areas are known where primers must not bind (e.g. repeat rich areas), one or more *No primers here* regions can be defined.

If two regions are defined, it is required that part of the *Forward primer region*, is located upstream of the *Reverse primer region*.

After exploring the available primers (see section 17.3) and setting the desired parameter values in the Primer Parameters preference group, the **Calculate** button will activate the primer design algorithm.

When a single primer region is defined

If only a single region is defined, only *single primers* will be suggested by the algorithm.

After pressing the **Calculate** button a dialog will appear (see figure 17.7).

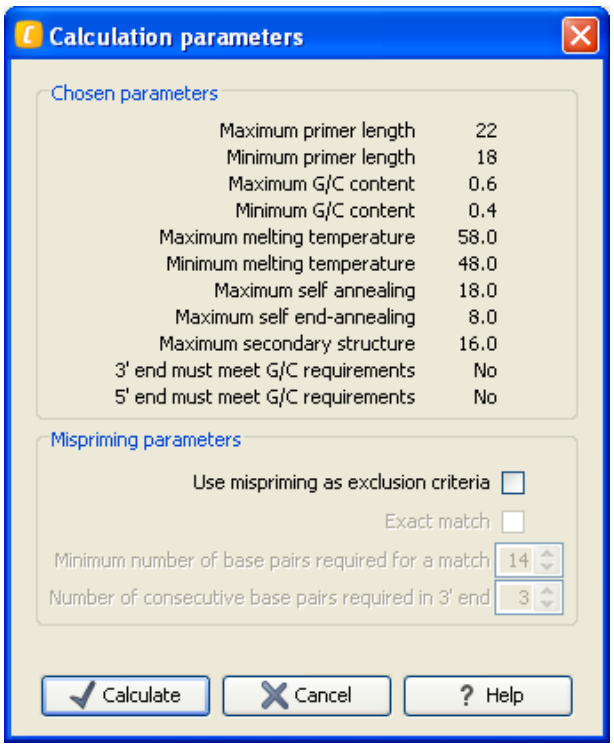

Figure 17.7: *Calculation dialog for PCR primers when only a single primer region has been defined.*

The top part of this dialog shows the parameter settings chosen in the Primer parameters preference group which will be used by the design algorithm.

The lower part contains a menu where the user can choose to include mispriming as a criteria in the design process. If this option is selected the algorithm will search for competing binding sites of the primer within the sequence.

The adjustable parameters for the search are:

- **Exact match**. Choose only to consider exact matches of the primer, i.e. all positions must base pair with the template for mispriming to occur.
- **Minimum number of base pairs required for a match**. How many nucleotides of the primer that must base pair to the sequence in order to cause mispriming.
- **Number of consecutive base pairs required in 3' end**. How many consecutive 3' end base pairs in the primer that MUST be present for mispriming to occur. This option is included since 3' terminal base pairs are known to be essential for priming to occur.

Note! Including a search for potential mispriming sites will prolong the search time substantially if long sequences are used as template and if the minimum number of base pairs required for a match is low. If the region to be amplified is part of a very long molecule and mispriming is a concern, consider extracting part of the sequence prior to designing primers.

When both forward and reverse regions are defined

If both a forward and a reverse region are defined, *primer pairs* will be suggested by the algorithm.

After pressing the **Calculate** button a dialog will appear (see figure 17.8).

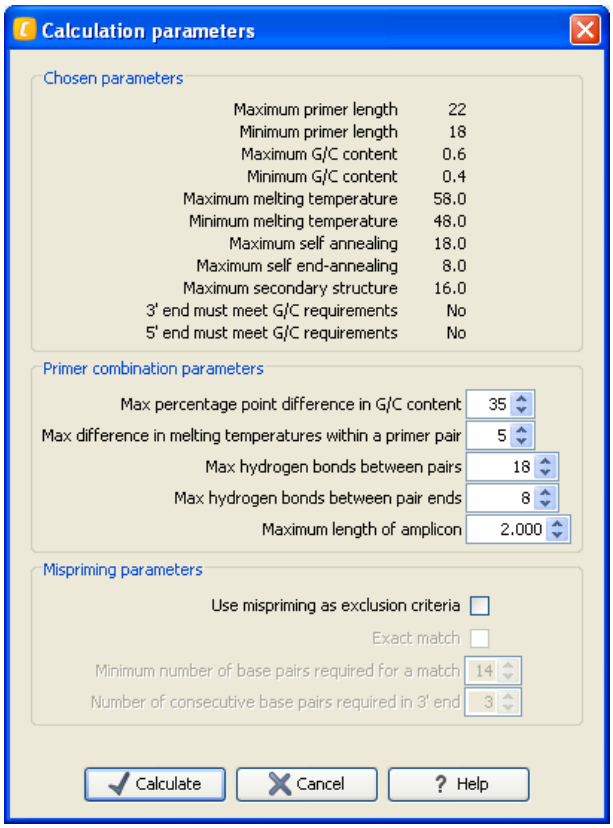

Figure 17.8: *Calculation dialog for PCR primers when two primer regions have been defined.*

Again, the top part of this dialog shows the parameter settings chosen in the Primer parameters preference group which will be used by the design algorithm. The lower part again contains a

menu where the user can choose to include mispriming of both primers as a criteria in the design process (see above). The central part of the dialog contains parameters pertaining to primer pairs. Here three parameters can be set:

- Maximum percentage point difference in G/C content - if this is set at e.g. 5 points a pair of primers with 45% and 49% G/C nucleotides, respectively, will be allowed, whereas a pair of primers with 45% and 51% G/C nucleotides, respectively will not be included.
- Maximal difference in melting temperature of primers in a pair - the number of degrees Celsius that primers in a pair are all allowed to differ.
- Max hydrogen bonds between pairs - the maximum number of hydrogen bonds allowed between the forward and the reverse primer in a primer pair.
- Max hydrogen bonds between pair ends - the maximum number of hydrogen bonds allowed in the consecutive ends of the forward and the reverse primer in a primer pair.
- Maximum length of amplicon - determines the maximum length of the PCR fragment.

17.5.2 Standard PCR output table

If only a single region is selected the following columns of information are available:

- Sequence - the primer's sequence.
- Score - measures how much the properties of the primer (or primer pair) deviates from the optimal solution in terms of the chosen parameters and tolerances. The higher the score, the better the solution.
- Region - the interval of the template sequence covered by the primer
- Self annealing - the maximum self annealing score of the primer in units of hydrogen bonds
- Self annealing alignment - a visualization of the highest maximum scoring self annealing alignment
- Self end annealing - the maximum score of consecutive end base-pairings allowed between the ends of two copies of the same molecule in units of hydrogen bonds
- GC content - the fraction of G and C nucleotides in the primer
- Melting temperature of the primer-template complex
- Secondary structure score - the score of the optimal secondary DNA structure found for the primer. Secondary structures are scored by adding the number of hydrogen bonds in the structure, and 2 extra hydrogen bonds are added for each stacking base-pair in the structure
- Secondary structure - a visualization of the optimal DNA structure found for the primer

If both a forward and a reverse region are selected a table of primer pairs is shown, where the above columns (excluding the score) are represented twice, once for the forward primer (designated by the letter F) and once for the reverse primer (designated by the letter R).

Before these, and following the score of the primer pair, are the following columns pertaining to primer pair-information available:

- Pair annealing - the number of hydrogen bonds found in the optimal alignment of the forward and the reverse primer in a primer pair
- Pair annealing alignment - a visualization of the optimal alignment of the forward and the reverse primer in a primer pair.
- Pair end annealing - the maximum score of consecutive end base-pairings found between the ends of the two primers in the primer pair, in units of hydrogen bonds
- Fragment length - the length (number of nucleotides) of the PCR fragment generated by the primer pair

17.6 Nested PCR

Nested PCR is a modification of Standard PCR, aimed at reducing product contamination due to the amplification of unintended primer binding sites (mispriming). If the intended fragment can not be amplified without interference from competing binding sites, the idea is to seek out a larger outer fragment which can be unambiguously amplified and which contains the smaller intended fragment. Having amplified the outer fragment to large numbers, the PCR amplification of the inner fragment can proceed and will yield amplification of this with minimal contamination.

Primer design for nested PCR thus involves designing two primer pairs, one for the outer fragment and one for the inner fragment.

In *Nested PCR* mode the user must thus define four regions a *Forward primer region* (the outer forward primer), a *Reverse primer region* (the outer reverse primer), a *Forward inner primer region*, and a *Reverse inner primer region*. These are defined by making a selection on the sequence and right-clicking the selection. If areas are known where primers must not bind (e.g. repeat rich areas), one or more *No primers here* regions can be defined.

It is required that the *Forward primer region*, is located upstream of the *Forward inner primer region*, that the *Forward inner primer region*, is located upstream of the *Reverse inner primer region*, and that the *Reverse inner primer region*, is located upstream of the *Reverse primer region*.

In *Nested PCR* mode the *Inner melting temperature* menu in the Primer parameters panel is activated, allowing the user to set a separate melting temperature interval for the inner and outer primer pairs.

After exploring the available primers (see section 17.3) and setting the desired parameter values in the Primer parameters preference group, the **Calculate** button will activate the primer design algorithm.

After pressing the **Calculate** button a dialog will appear (see figure 17.9).

The top and bottom parts of this dialog are identical to the *Standard PCR* dialog for designing primer pairs described above.

The central part of the dialog contains parameters pertaining to primer pairs and the comparison between the outer and the inner pair. Here five options can be set:

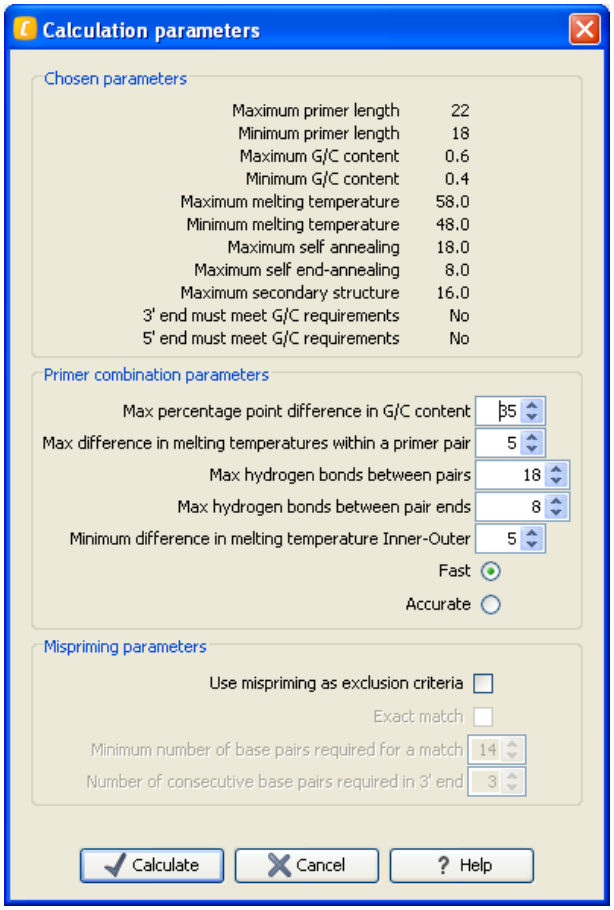

Figure 17.9: *Calculation dialog*

- Maximum percentage point difference in G/C content (described above under Standard PCR) - this criteria is applied to both primer pairs independently.
- Maximal difference in melting temperature of primers in a pair - the number of degrees Celsius that primers in a pair are all allowed to differ. This criteria is applied to both primer pairs independently.
- Maximum pair annealing score - the maximum number of hydrogen bonds allowed between the forward and the reverse primer in a primer pair. This criteria is applied to all possible combinations of primers.
- Minimum difference in the melting temperature of primers in the inner and outer primer pair - all comparisons between the melting temperature of primers from the two pairs must be at least this different, otherwise the primer set is excluded. This option is applied to ensure that the inner and outer PCR reactions can be initiated at different annealing temperatures. Please note that to ensure flexibility there is no directionality indicated when setting parameters for melting temperature differences between inner and outer primer pair, i.e. it is not specified whether the inner pair should have a lower or higher T_m. Instead this is determined by the allowed temperature intervals for inner and outer primers that are set in the primer parameters preference group in the side panel. If a higher T_m of inner primers is desired, choose a T_m interval for inner primers which has higher values than the interval for outer primers.

- Two radio buttons allowing the user to choose between a fast and an accurate algorithm for primer prediction.

17.6.1 Nested PCR output table

In nested PCR there are four primers in a solution, forward outer primer (FO), forward inner primer (FI), reverse inner primer (RI) and a reverse outer primer (RO).

The output table can show primer-pair combination parameters for all four combinations of primers and single primer parameters for all four primers in a solution (see section on Standard PCR for an explanation of the available primer-pair and single primer information).

The fragment length in this mode refers to the length of the PCR fragment generated by the inner primer pair, and this is also the PCR fragment which can be exported.

17.7 TaqMan

CLC Combined Workbench allows the user to design primers and probes for TaqMan PCR applications.

TaqMan probes are oligonucleotides that contain a fluorescent reporter dye at the 5' end and a quenching dye at the 3' end. Fluorescent molecules become excited when they are irradiated and usually emit light. However, in a TaqMan probe the energy from the fluorescent dye is transferred to the quencher dye by fluorescence resonance energy transfer as long as the quencher and the dye are located in close proximity i.e. when the probe is intact. TaqMan probes are designed to anneal within a PCR product amplified by a standard PCR primer pair. If a TaqMan probe is bound to a product template, the replication of this will cause the Taq polymerase to encounter the probe. Upon doing so, the 5'exonuclease activity of the polymerase will cleave the probe. This cleavage separates the quencher and the dye, and as a result the reporter dye starts to emit fluorescence.

The TaqMan technology is used in Real-Time quantitative PCR. Since the accumulation of fluorescence mirrors the accumulation of PCR products it can can be monitored in real-time and used to quantify the amount of template initially present in the buffer.

The technology is also used to detect genetic variation such as SNP's. By designing a TaqMan probe which will specifically bind to one of two or more genetic variants it is possible to detect genetic variants by the presence or absence of fluorescence in the reaction.

Note! In *CLC Combined Workbench* it is possible to annotate sequences with SNP information from dbSNP and use this information to guide TaqMan allele-specific probe design.

A specific requirement of TaqMan probes is that a G nucleotide can not be present at the 5' end since this will quench the fluorescence of the reporter dye. It is recommended that the melting temperature of the TaqMan probe is about 10 degrees celsius higher than that of the primer pair.

Primer design for TaqMan technology involves designing a primer pair and a TaqMan probe.

In *TaqMan* the user must thus define three regions: a *Forward primer region*, a *Reverse primer region*, and a *TaqMan probe region*. The easiest way to do this is to designate a *TaqMan primer/probe region* spanning the sequence region where TaqMan amplification is desired. This will automatically add all three regions to the sequence. If more control is desired about the

placing of primers and probes the *Forward primer region*, *Reverse primer region* and *TaqMan probe region* can all be defined manually. If areas are known where primers or probes must not bind (e.g. repeat rich areas), one or more *No primers here* regions can be defined. The regions are defined by making a selection on the sequence and right-clicking the selection.

It is required that part of the *Forward primer region*, is located upstream of the *TaqMan Probe region*, and that the *TaqMan Probe region*, is located upstream of a part of the *Reverse primer region*.

In *TaqMan* mode the *Inner melting temperature* menu in the primer parameters panel is activated allowing the user to set a separate melting temperature interval for the TaqMan probe.

After exploring the available primers (see section 17.3) and setting the desired parameter values in the Primer Parameters preference group, the **Calculate** button will activate the primer design algorithm.

After pressing the **Calculate** button a dialog will appear (see figure 17.10) which is similar to the *Nested PCR* dialog described above (see section 17.6).

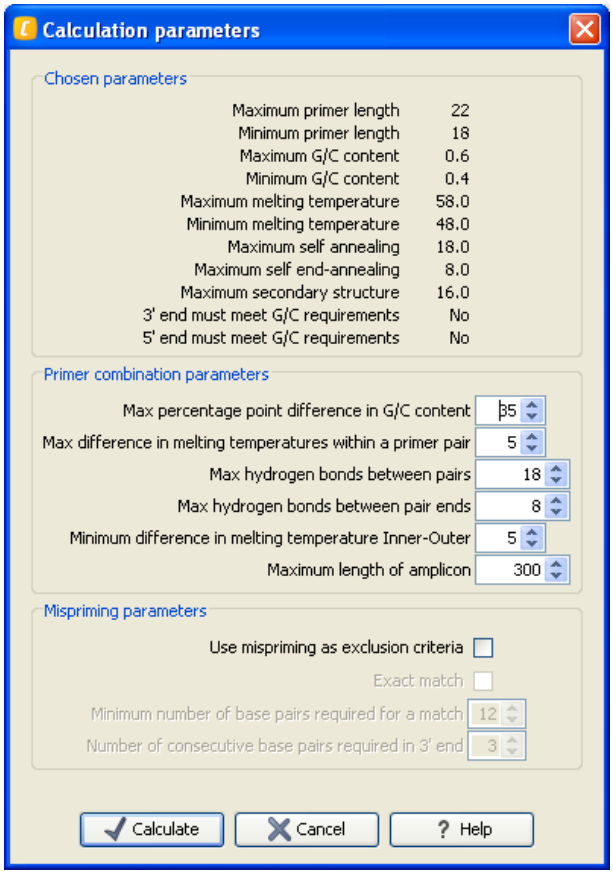

Figure 17.10: *Calculation dialog*

In this dialog the options to set a minimum and a desired melting temperature difference between outer and inner refers to primer pair and probe respectively.

Furthermore, the central part of the dialog contains an additional parameter

- Maximum length of amplicon - determines the maximum length of the PCR fragment

generated in the TaqMan analysis.

17.7.1 TaqMan output table

In TaqMan mode there are two primers and a probe in a given solution, forward primer (F), reverse primer (R) and a TaqMan probe (TP).

The output table can show primer/probe-pair combination parameters for all three combinations of primers and single primer parameters for both primers and the TaqMan probe (see section on Standard PCR for an explanation of the available primer-pair and single primer information).

The fragment length in this mode refers to the length of the PCR fragment generated by the primer pair, and this is also the PCR fragment which can be exported.

17.8 Sequencing primers

This mode is used to design primers for DNA sequencing.

In this mode the user can define a number of *Forward primer regions* and *Reverse primer regions* where a sequencing primer can start. These are defined by making a selection on the sequence and right-clicking the selection. If areas are known where primers must not bind (e.g. repeat rich areas), one or more *No primers here* regions can be defined.

No requirements are instated on the relative position of the regions defined.

After exploring the available primers (see section 17.3) and setting the desired parameter values in the Primer Parameters preference group, the **Calculate** button will activate the primer design algorithm.

After pressing the **Calculate** button a dialog will appear (see figure 17.11).

Since design of sequencing primers does not require the consideration of interactions between primer pairs, this dialog is identical to the dialog shown in *Standard PCR* mode when only a single primer region is chosen. See the section 17.5 for a description.

17.8.1 Sequencing primers output table

In this mode primers are predicted independently for each region, but the optimal solutions are all presented in one table. The solutions are numbered consecutively according to their position on the sequence such that the forward primer region closest to the 5' end of the molecule is designated F1, the next one F2 etc.

For each solution, the single primer information described under Standard PCR is available in the table.

17.9 Alignment-based primer and probe design

CLC Combined Workbench allows the user to design PCR primers and TaqMan probes based on an alignment of multiple sequences.

The primer designer for alignments can be accessed in two ways:

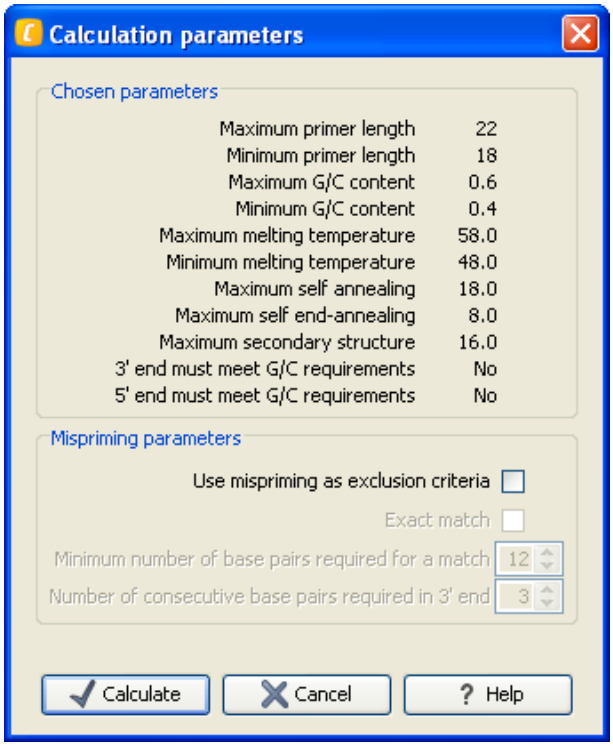

Figure 17.11: *Calculation dialog for sequencing primers*

select alignment | **Toolbox** | **Primers and Probes (**) | **Design Primers (**) | **OK**

or **If the alignment is already open:** | **Click Primer Designer (**) **at the lower left part of the view**

In the alignment primer view (see figure 17.12), the basic options for viewing the template alignment are the same as for the standard view of alignments. See section 20 for an explanation of these options.

Note! This means that annotations such as e.g. known SNP's or exons can be displayed on the template sequence to guide the choice of primer regions. Since the definition of groups of sequences is essential to the primer design the selection boxes of the standard view are shown as default in the alignment primer view.

17.9.1 Specific options for alignment-based primer and probe design

Compared to the primer view of a single sequence the most notable difference is that the alignment primer view has no available graphical information. Furthermore, the selection boxes found to the right of the names in the alignment play an important role in specifying the oligo design process. This is elaborated below. The **Primer Parameters** group in the **Side Panel** has the same options for specifying primer requirements, but differs by the following (see figure 17.12):

- In the **Mode** submenu which specifies the reaction types the following options are found:
  - **Standard PCR.** Used when the objective is to design primers, or primer pairs, for PCR amplification of a single DNA fragment.

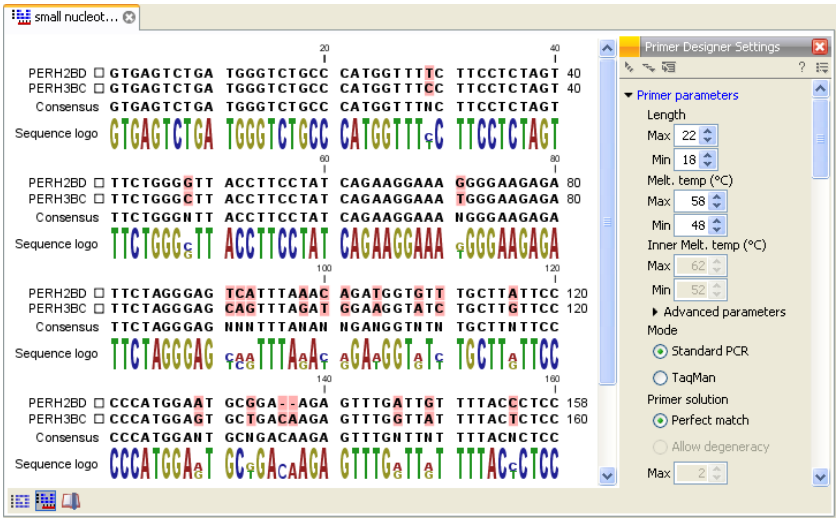

Figure 17.12: *The initial view of an alignment used for primer design.*

  - **TaqMan.** Used when the objective is to design a primer pair and a probe set for TaqMan quantitative PCR.

- The **Primer solution** submenu is used to specify requirements for the match of a PCR primer against the template sequences. These options are described further below. It contains the following options:

  - **Perfect match.**
  - **Allow degeneracy.**
  - **Allow mismatches.**

The work flow when designing alignment based primers and probes is as follows:

- Use selection boxes to specify groups of included and excluded sequences. To select all the sequences in the alignment, right-click one of the selection boxes and choose **Mark All**.
- Mark either a single forward primer region, a single reverse primer region or both on the sequence (and perhaps also a TaqMan region). Selections must cover all sequences in the included group. You can also specify that there should be no primers in a region (No Primers Here) or that a whole region should be amplified (Region to Amplify).
- Adjust parameters regarding single primers in the preference panel.
- Click the **Calculate** button.

17.9.2 Alignment based design of PCR primers

In this mode, a single or a pair of PCR primers are designed. *CLC Combined Workbench* allows the user to design primers which will specifically amplify a group of *included* sequences but **not** amplify the remainder of the sequences, the *excluded* sequences. The selection boxes are used to indicate the status of a sequence, if the box is checked the sequence belongs to the included sequences, if not, it belongs to the excluded sequences. To design primers that are general for

all primers in an alignment, simply add them all to the set of included sequences by checking all selection boxes. Specificity of priming is determined by criteria set by the user in the dialog box which is shown when the **Calculate** button is pressed (see below).

Different options can be chosen concerning the match of the primer to the template sequences in the included group:

- **Perfect match.** Specifies that the designed primers must have a perfect match to all relevant sequences in the alignment. When selected, primers will thus only be located in regions that are completely conserved within the sequences belonging to the included group.
- **Allow degeneracy.** Designs primers that may include ambiguity characters where heterogeneities occur in the included template sequences. The allowed fold of degeneracy is user defined and corresponds to the number of possible primer combinations formed by a degenerate primer. Thus, if a primer covers two 4-fold degenerate site and one 2-fold degenerate site the total fold of degeneracy is $4 * 4 * 2 = 32$ and the primer will, when supplied from the manufacturer, consist of a mixture of 32 different oligonucleotides. When scoring the available primers, degenerate primers are given a score which decreases with the fold of degeneracy.
- **Allow mismatches.** Designs primers which are allowed a specified number of mismatches to the included template sequences. The melting temperature algorithm employed includes the latest thermodynamic parameters for calculating T_m when single-base mismatches occur.

When in Standard PCR mode, clicking the **Calculate** button will prompt the dialog shown in figure 17.13.

The top part of this dialog shows the single-primer parameter settings chosen in the Primer parameters preference group which will be used by the design algorithm.

The central part of the dialog contains parameters pertaining to primer specificity (this is omitted if all sequences belong to the included group). Here, three parameters can be set:

- Minimum number of mismatches - the minimum number of mismatches that a primer must have against all sequences in the excluded group to ensure that it does not prime these.
- Minimum number of mismatches in 3' end - the minimum number of mismatches that a primer must have in its 3' end against all sequences in the excluded group to ensure that it does not prime these.
- Length of 3' end - the number of consecutive nucleotides to consider for mismatches in the 3' end of the primer.

The lower part of the dialog contains parameters pertaining to primer pairs (this is omitted when only designing a single primer). Here, three parameters can be set:

- Maximum percentage point difference in G/C content - if this is set at e.g. 5 points a pair of primers with 45% and 49% G/C nucleotides, respectively, will be allowed, whereas a pair of primers with 45% and 51% G/C nucleotides, respectively will not be included.

- Maximal difference in melting temperature of primers in a pair - the number of degrees Celsius that primers in a pair are all allowed to differ.
- Max hydrogen bonds between pairs - the maximum number of hydrogen bonds allowed between the forward and the reverse primer in a primer pair.
- Maximum length of amplicon - determines the maximum length of the PCR fragment.

The output of the design process is a table of single primers or primer pairs as described for primer design based on single sequences. These primers are specific to the included sequences in the alignment according to the criteria defined for specificity. The only novelty in the table, is that melting temperatures are displayed with both a maximum, a minimum and an average value to reflect that degenerate primers or primers with mismatches may have heterogeneous behavior on the different templates in the group of included sequences.

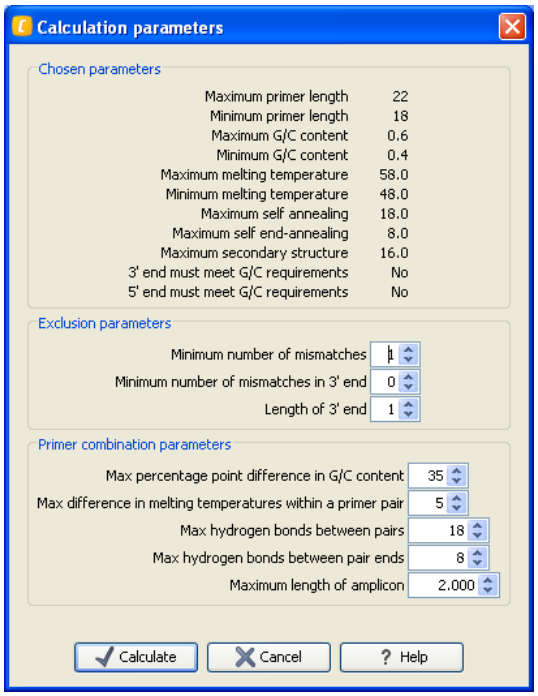

Figure 17.13: *Calculation dialog shown when designing alignment based PCR primers.*

17.9.3 Alignment-based TaqMan probe design

CLC Combined Workbench allows the user to design solutions for TaqMan quantitative PCR which consist of four oligos: a general primer pair which will amplify all sequences in the alignment, a specific TaqMan probe which will match the group of *included* sequences but **not** match the *excluded* sequences and a specific TaqMan probe which will match the group of *excluded* sequences but **not** match the *included* sequences. As above, the selection boxes are used to indicate the status of a sequence, if the box is checked the sequence belongs to the included sequences, if not, it belongs to the excluded sequences. We use the terms included and excluded here to be consistent with the section above although a probe solution is presented for both groups. In TaqMan mode, primers are not allowed degeneracy or mismatches to any template sequence in the alignment, variation is only allowed/required in the TaqMan probes.

Pushing the **Calculate** button will cause the dialog shown in figure 17.14 to appear.

The top part of this dialog is identical to the *Standard PCR* dialog for designing primer pairs described above.

The central part of the dialog contains parameters to define the specificity of TaqMan probes. Two parameters can be set:

- Minimum number of mismatches - the minimum total number of mismatches that must exist between a specific TaqMan probe and all sequences which belong to the group not recognized by the probe.
- Minimum number of mismatches in central part - the minimum number of mismatches in the central part of the oligo that must exist between a specific TaqMan probe and all sequences which belong to the group not recognized by the probe.

The lower part of the dialog contains parameters pertaining to primer pairs and the comparison between the outer oligos(primers) and the inner oligos (TaqMan probes). Here, five options can be set:

- Maximum percentage point difference in G/C content (described above under Standard PCR).
- Maximal difference in melting temperature of primers in a pair - the number of degrees Celsius that primers in the primer pair are all allowed to differ.
- Maximum pair annealing score - the maximum number of hydrogen bonds allowed between the forward and the reverse primer in an oligo pair. This criteria is applied to all possible combinations of primers and probes.
- Minimum difference in the melting temperature of primer (outer) and TaqMan probe (inner) oligos - all comparisons between the melting temperature of primers and probes must be at least this different, otherwise the solution set is excluded.
- Desired temperature difference in melting temperature between outer (primers) and inner (TaqMan) oligos - the scoring function discounts solution sets which deviate greatly from this value. Regarding this, and the minimum difference option mentioned above, please note that to ensure flexibility there is no directionality indicated when setting parameters for melting temperature differences between probes and primers, i.e. it is not specified whether the probes should have a lower or higher T_m. Instead this is determined by the allowed temperature intervals for inner and outer oligos that are set in the primer parameters preference group in the side panel. If a higher T_m of probes is required, choose a T_m interval for probes which has higher values than the interval for outer primers.

The output of the design process is a table of solution sets. Each solution set contains the following: a set of primers which are general to all sequences in the alignment, a TaqMan probe which is specific to the set of included sequences (sequences where selection boxes are checked) and a TaqMan probe which is specific to the set of excluded sequences (marked by *). Otherwise, the table is similar to that described above for TaqMan probe prediction on single sequences.

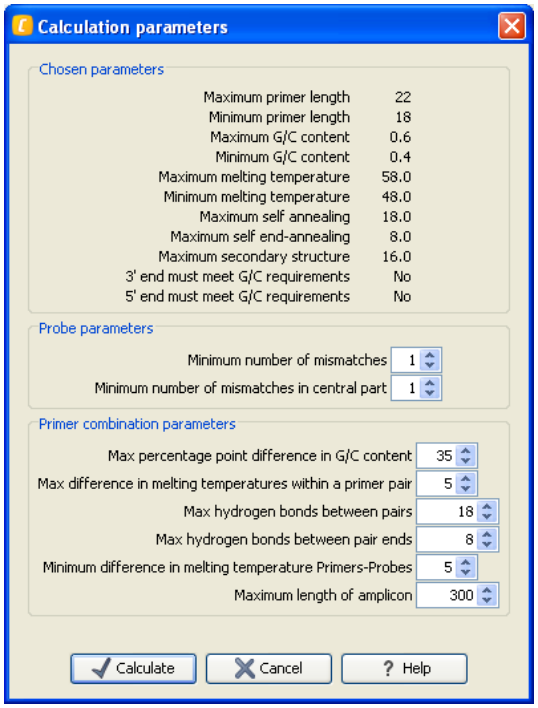

Figure 17.14: *Calculation dialog shown when designing alignment based TaqMan probes.*

17.10 Analyze primer properties

CLC Combined Workbench can calculate and display the properties of predefined primers and probes:

select a primer sequence (primers are represented as DNA sequences in the Navigation Area) | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Primers and Probes ( ) | Analyze Primer Properties ( )

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove a sequence from the selected elements.

Clicking **Next** generates the dialog seen in figure 17.15:

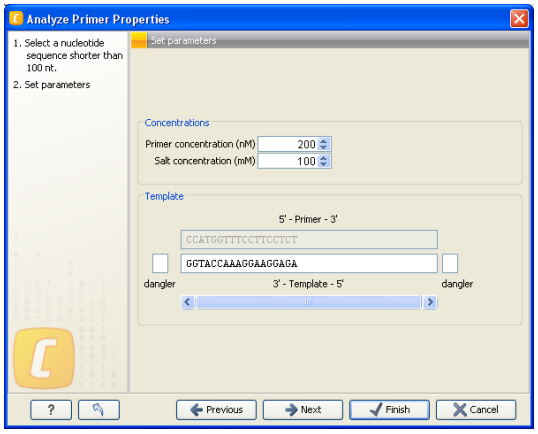

Figure 17.15: *The parameters for analyzing primer properties.*

In the *Concentrations* panel a number of parameters can be specified concerning the reaction

mixture and which influence melting temperatures

- **Primer concentration.** Specifies the concentration of primers and probes in units of nanomoles (nM)
- **Salt concentration.** Specifies the concentration of monovalent cations ($[NA^+]$, $[K^+]$ and equivalents) in units of millimoles (mM)

In the *Template panel* the sequences of the chosen primer and the template sequence are shown. The template sequence is as default set to the reverse complement of the primer sequence i.e. as perfectly base-pairing. However, it is possible to edit the template to introduce mismatches which may affect the melting temperature. At each side of the template sequence a text field is shown. Here, the dangling ends of the template sequence can be specified. These may have an important affect on the melting temperature [Bommarito et al., 2000]

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The result is shown in figure 17.16:

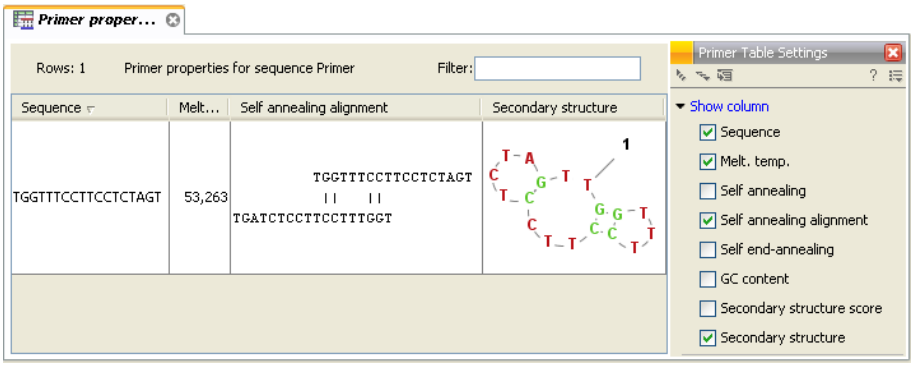

Figure 17.16: *Properties of a primer from the Example Data.*

In the **Side Panel** you can specify the information to display about the primer. The information parameters of the primer properties table are explained in section 17.5.2.

17.11 Find binding sites on sequence

In *CLC Combined Workbench* you have the possibility of matching a known primer against one or more DNA sequences or a list of DNA sequences. This can be applied to test whether a primer used in a previous experiment is applicable to amplify e.g. a homologous region in another species, or to test for potential mispriming.

When applied, the algorithm will search for competing binding sites of the primer within the sequence.

You have the option of choosing the minimum number of matching nucleotides and a minimum number of nucleotides that must bind in the end of the primer. These parameters will be explained in this section.

To search for primer binding sites:

select a nucleotide sequence | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Primers and Probes ( ) | Find Binding Sites on Sequence ( )

or **right-click a nucleotide sequence | Toolbox | Primers and Probes ( ) | Find Binding Sites on Sequence ( )**

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

If you want to adjust the parameters for primer matching, click **Next**.

17.11.1 Search for primer binding sites parameters

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 17.17:

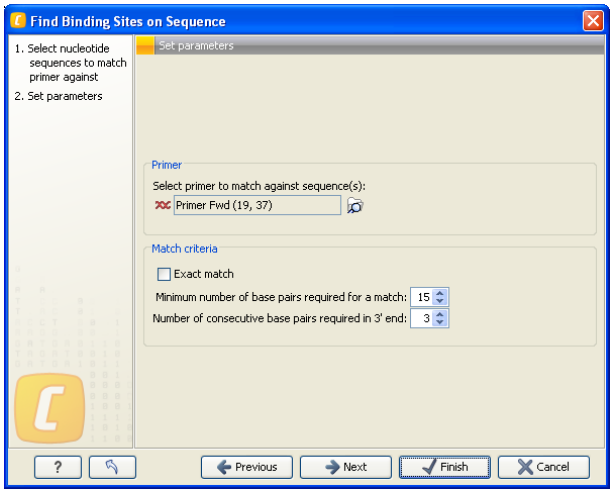

Figure 17.17: *Search parameters for finding primer binding sites.*

The adjustable parameters for the search are:

- **Exact match**. Choose only to consider exact matches of the primer, i.e. all positions must base pair with the template.
- **Minimum number of base pairs required for a match**. How many nucleotides of the primer that must base pair to the sequence in order to cause priming/mispriming.
- **Number of consecutive base pairs required in 3' end**. How many consecutive 3' end base pairs in the primer that MUST be present for priming/mispriming to occur. This option is included since 3' terminal base pairs are known to be essential for priming to occur.
- **Select primer to search for**. A primer is a normal DNA sequence, but can only have a maximum length of 100 nucleotides.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

After clicking finish the sequences where the primer binds to a subsequence will be annotated with a Primer Binding Site containing information about the primer binding to this subsequence. An example of the result is shown in figure 17.18:

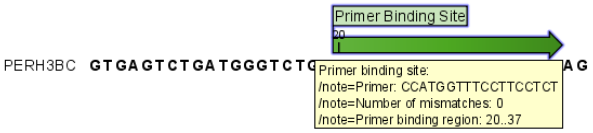

Figure 17.18: *Annotation showing a primer match.*

17.12 Order primers

To facilitate the ordering of primers and probes, *CLC Combined Workbench* offers an easy way of displaying, and saving, a textual representation of one or more primers:

select primers in Navigation Area | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Primers and Probes ( ) | Order Primers ( )

This opens a dialog where you can choose additional primers. Clicking **OK** opens a textual representation of the primers (see figure 17.19). The first line states the number of primers being ordered and after this follows the names and nucleotide sequences of the primers in 5'-3' orientation. From the editor, the primer information can be copied and pasted to web forms or e-mails. The created object can also be saved and exported as a text file.

See figure 17.19

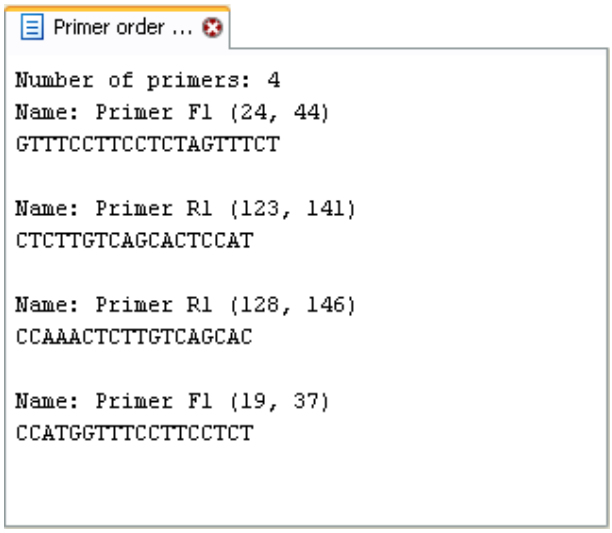

Figure 17.19: *A primer order for 4 primers.*

Chapter 18

Sequencing data analyses and Assembly

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CLC Combined Workbench lets you import, trim and assemble DNA sequence reads from automated sequencing machines. A number of different formats are supported (see section 7.1.1). This chapter first explains how to trim sequence reads. Next follows a description of how to assemble reads into contigs both with and without a reference sequence. In the final section, the options for viewing and editing contigs are explained.

18.1 Importing and viewing trace data

A number of different binary trace data formats can be imported into the program, including *Standard Chromatogram Format (.SCF)*, *ABI sequencer data files (.ABI and .AB1)*, *PHRED output files (.PHD)* and *PHRAP output files (.ACE)* (see section 7.1.1).

After import, the sequence reads and their trace data are saved as DNA sequences. This means that all analyzes which apply to DNA sequences can be performed on the sequence reads, including e.g. BLAST and open reading frame prediction.

You can see additional information about the quality of the traces by holding the mouse cursor on the imported sequence. This will display a tool tip as shown in figure 18.1.

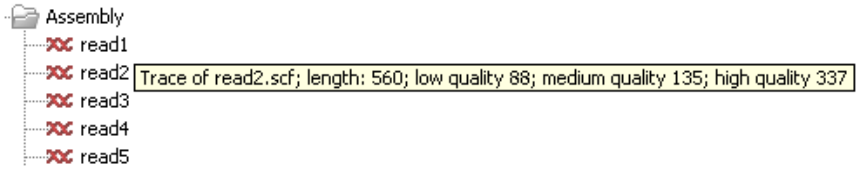

Figure 18.1: *A tooltip displaying information about the quality of the chromatogram.*

If the trace file does not contain information about quality, only the sequence length will be shown.

To view the trace data, open the sequence read in a standard sequence view ( ).

18.1.1 Scaling traces

The traces can be scaled by dragging the trace vertically as shown in figure figure 18.2. The Workbench automatically adjust the height of the traces to be readable, but if the trace height varies a lot, this manual scaling is very useful.

The height of the area available for showing traces can be adjusted in the **Side Panel** as described insection 18.1.2.

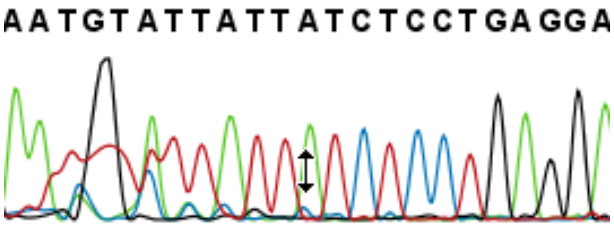

Figure 18.2: *Grab the traces to scale.*

18.1.2 Trace settings in the Side Panel

In the Nucleotide info preference group the display of trace data can be selected and unselected. When selected, the trace data information is shown as a plot beneath the sequence. The appearance of the plot can be adjusted using the following options (see figure 18.3):

- **Nucleotide trace.** For each of the four nucleotides the trace data can be selected and unselected.
- **Show confidence.** If confidence information was provided by the base-calling algorithm this can be displayed as a bar plot behind the trace plots. The confidence data is displayed as the log-transformed value of the probability of a given nucleotide position being correctly assigned

- **Show as probabilities.** Displays confidence data as probabilities on a 0-1 scale, i.e. not log-transformed.
- **Scale traces.** A slider which allows the user to scale the height of the trace area. Scaling the traces individually is described in section 18.1.1.

Figure 18.3: *A sequence with trace data. The preferences for viewing the trace are shown in the Side Panel.*

18.2 Trim sequences

CLC Combined Workbench offers a number of ways to trim your sequence reads prior to assembly. Trimming can be done either as a separate task before assembling, or it can be performed as an integrated part of the assembly process (see section 18.3).

Trimming as a separate task can be done either manually or automatically.

In both instances, trimming of a sequence does not cause data to be deleted, instead both the manual and automatic trimming will put a "Trim" annotation on the trimmed parts as an indication to the assembly algorithm that this part of the data is to be ignored (see figure 18.4). This means that the effect of different trimming schemes can easily be explored without the loss of data. To remove existing trimming from a sequence, simply remove its trim annotation (see section 10.3.2).

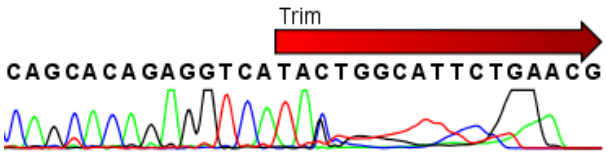

Figure 18.4: *Trimming creates annotations on the regions that will be ignored in the assembly process.*

18.2.1 Manual trimming

Sequence reads can be trimmed manually while inspecting their trace and quality data. Trimming sequences manually corresponds to adding annotation (see also section 10.3.2) but is special in the sense that trimming can only be applied to the ends of a sequence:

> **double-click the sequence to trim in the Navigation Area | select the region you want to trim | right-click the selection | Trim sequence left/right to determine the direction of the trimming**

This will add trimming annotation to the end of the sequence in the selected direction.

18.2.2 Automatic trimming

Sequence reads can be trimmed automatically based on a number of different criteria. Automatic trimming is particularly useful in the following situations:

- If you have many sequence reads to be trimmed.
- If you wish to trim vector contamination from sequence reads.
- If you wish to ensure that the trimming is done according to the same criteria for all the sequence reads.

To trim sequences automatically:

> **select sequence(s) or sequence lists to trim | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Sequencing Data Analyses ( ) | Trim Sequences ( )**

This opens a dialog where you can alter your choice of sequences.

When the sequences are selected, click **Next**.

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 18.5.

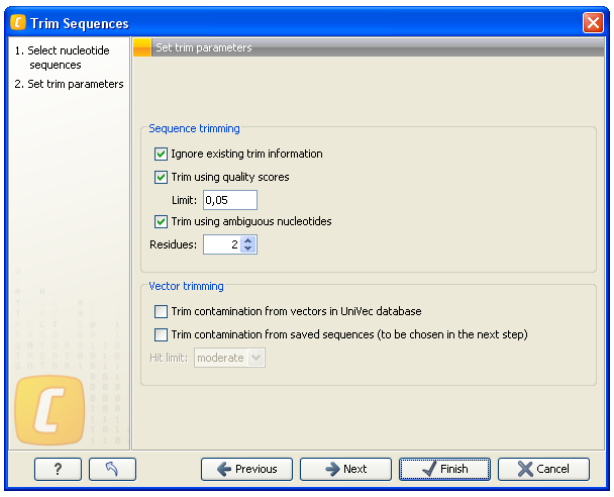

Figure 18.5: *Setting parameters for trimming.*

The following parameters can be adjusted in the dialog:

- **Ignore existing trim information.** If you have previously trimmed the sequences, you can check this to remove existing trimming annotation prior to analysis.
- **Trim using quality scores.** If the sequence files contain quality scores from a base-caller algorithm this information can be used for trimming sequence ends. The program uses the modified-Mott trimming algorithm for this purpose (Richard Mott personal communication)
- **Trim using ambiguous nucleotides.** This option trims the sequence ends based on the presence of ambiguous nucleotides (typically N). Note that the automated sequencer generating the data must be set to output ambiguous nucleotides in order for this option to apply. The algorithm takes as input the *maximal number of ambiguous nucleotides allowed in the sequence after trimming*. If this maximum is set to e.g. 3, the algorithm finds the maximum length region containing 3 or fewer ambiguities and then trims away the ends not included in this region.
- **Trim contamination from vectors in UniVec database.** If selected, the program will match the sequence reads against all vectors in the UniVec database and remove sequence ends with significant matches (the database is included when you install the *CLC Combined Workbench*). A list of all the vectors in the UniVec database can be found at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/VecScreen/replist.html.
- **Trim contamination from saved sequences.** This option lets you select a specific vector sequence that you know might be the cause of contamination. If you select this option, you will be able to select one or more sequences when you click **Next**.
- **Hit limit.** Specifies how strictly vector contamination is trimmed. Since vector contamination usually occurs at the beginning or end of a sequence, different criteria are applied for terminal and internal matches. A match is considered terminal if it is located within the first 25 bases at either sequence end. Three match categories are defined according to the expected frequency of an alignment with the same score occurring between random sequences, as calculated by NCBI/VecScreen:
  - **Weak.** Expect 1 random match in 40 queries of length 350 kb
    - Terminal match with Score 16 to 18.
    - Internal match with Score 23 to 24.
  - **Moderate.** Expect 1 random match in 1,000 queries of length 350 kb
    - Terminal match with Score 19 to 23.
    - Internal match with Score 25 to 29.
  - **Strong.** Expect 1 random match in 1,000,000 queries of length 350 kb
    - Terminal match with Score $\geq$ 24.
    - Internal match with Score $\geq$ 30.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will start the trimming process. Views of each trimmed sequence will be shown, and you can inspect the result by looking at the "Trim" annotations (they are colored red as default). If there are no trim annotations, the sequence has not been trimmed.

18.3 Assemble sequences

This section describes how to assemble a number of sequence reads into a contig without the use of a reference sequence (a known sequence that can be used for comparison with the other sequences, see section 18.4). To perform the assembly:

> **select sequences to assemble | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Sequencing Data Analyses ( ) | Assemble Sequences ( )**

This opens a dialog where you can alter your choice of sequences which you want to assemble. You can also add sequence lists.

When the sequences are selected, click **Next**. This will show the dialog in figure 18.6

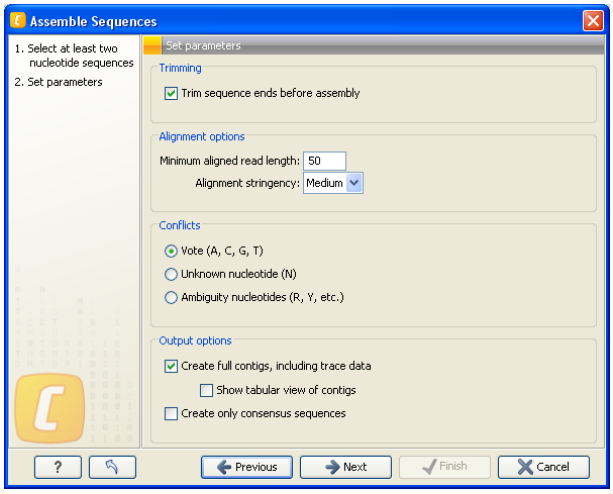

Figure 18.6: *Setting assembly parameters.*

This dialog gives you the following options for assembling:

- **Trim sequence ends before assembly.** If you have not previously trimmed the sequences, this can be done by checking this box. If selected, the next step in the dialog will allow you to specify settings for trimming (see section 18.2.2).
- **Minimum aligned read length.** The minimum number of nucleotides in a read which must be successfully aligned to the contig. If this criteria is not met by a read, the read is excluded from the assembly.
- **Alignment stringency.** Specifies the stringency of the scoring function used by the alignment step in the contig assembly algorithm. A higher stringency level will tend to produce contigs with less ambiguities but will also tend to omit more sequencing reads and to generate more and shorter contigs. Three stringency levels can be set:
  - **Low.**
  - **Medium.**
  - **High.**
- **Conflicts.** If there is a conflict, i.e. a position where there is disagreement about the residue (A, C, T or G), you can specify how the contig sequence should reflect the conflict:

  - **Vote (A, C, G, T).** The conflict will be solved by counting instances of each nucleotide and then letting the majority decide the nucleotide in the contig.
  - **Unknown nucleotide (N).** The contig will be assigned an 'N' character in all positions with conflicts.
  - **Ambiguity nucleotides (R, Y, etc.).** The contig will display an ambiguity nucleotide reflecting the different nucleotides found in the reads. For an overview of ambiguity codes, see Appendix F.

  Note, that conflicts will always be highlighted no matter which of the options you choose. Furthermore, each conflict will be marked as annotation on the contig sequence and will be present if the contig sequence is extracted for further analysis. As a result, the details of any experimental heterogeneity can be maintained and used when the result of single-sequence analyzes is interpreted. Read more about conflicts in section 18.6.4.

- **Create full contigs, including trace data.** This will create a contig where all the aligned reads are displayed below the contig sequence. (You can always extract the contig sequence without the reads later on.) For more information on how to use the contigs that are created, see section 18.6.
- **Show tabular view of contigs.** A contig can be shown both in a graphical as well as a tabular view. If you select this option, a tabular view of the contig will also be opened (Even if you do not select this option, you can show the tabular view of the contig later on by clicking **Table** ( ) at the bottom of the view.) For more information about the tabular view of contigs, see section 18.6.6.
- **Create only consensus sequences.** This will not display a contig but will only output the assembled contig sequences as single nucleotide sequences. If you choose this option it is not possible to validate the assembly process and edit the contig based on the traces.

If you have chosen to "Trim sequences", click **Next** and you will be able to set trim parameters (see section 18.2.2).

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

When the assembly process has ended, a number of views will be shown, each containing a contig of two or more sequences that have been matched. If the number of contigs seem too high or low, try again with another **Alignment stringency** setting. Depending on your choices of output options above, the views will include trace files or only contig sequences. However, the calculation of the contig is carried out the same way, no matter how the contig is displayed.

See section 18.6 on how to use the resulting contigs.

18.4 Assemble to reference sequence

This section describes how to assemble a number of sequence reads into a contig using a reference sequence. A reference sequence can be particularly helpful when the objective is to characterize SNP variation in the data. Note, that *CLC Combined Workbench* allows you to annotate a reference sequence with known SNP information from the dbSNP database (see section 12.5).

To start the assembly:

select sequences to assemble | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Sequencing Data Analyses ( ) | Assemble Sequences to Reference ( )

This opens a dialog where you can alter your choice of sequences which you want to assemble. You can also add sequence lists.

When the sequences are selected, click **Next**, and you will see the dialog shown in figure 18.7

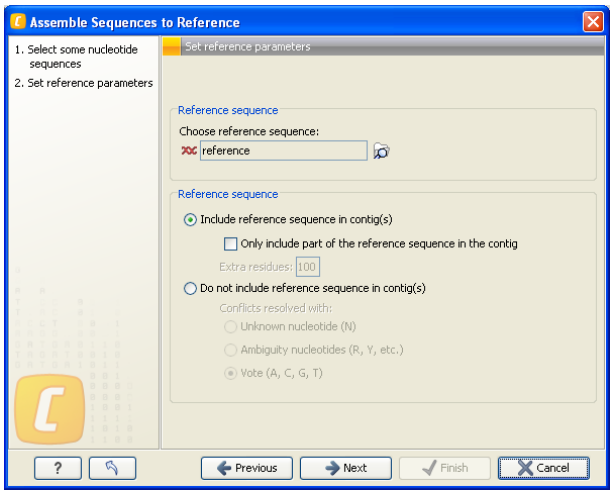

Figure 18.7: *Setting assembly parameters when assembling to a reference sequence.*

This dialog gives you the following options for assembling:

- **Reference sequence.** Click the **Browse and select element** icon ( ) in order to select a sequence to use as reference.
- **Include reference sequence in contig(s).** This will display a contig data-object with the reference sequence at the top and the reads aligned below. This option is useful when comparing sequence reads to a closely related reference sequence e.g. when sequencing for SNP characterization.
  - **Only include part of the reference sequence in the contig.** If the aligned sequence reads only cover a small part of the reference sequence, it may not be desirable to include the whole reference sequence in the contig data-object. When selected, this option lets you specify how many residues from the reference sequence that should be kept on each side of the region spanned by sequencing reads by entering the number in the **Extra residues** field.
- **Do not include reference sequence in contig(s).** This will produce a contig data-object without the reference sequence. The contig is created in the same way as when you make an ordinary assembly (see section 18.3), but the reference sequence is omitted in the resulting contig. In the assembly process the reference sequence is only used as a scaffold for alignment. This option is useful when performing assembly with a reference sequence that is not closely related to the sequencing reads.
  - **Conflicts resolved with.** If there is a conflict, i.e. a position where there is disagreement about the residue (A, C, T or G), you can specify how the contig sequence should reflect this conflict:

* **Unknown nucleotide (N).** The contig will be assigned an 'N' character in all positions with conflicts.
* **Ambiguity nucleotides (R, Y, etc.).** The contig will display an ambiguity nucleotide reflecting the different nucleotides found in the reads. For an overview of ambiguity codes, see Appendix F.
* **Vote (A, C, G, T).** The conflict will be solved by counting instances of each nucleotide and then letting the majority decide the nucleotide in the contig.

Note, that conflicts will always be highlighted no matter which of the options you choose. Furthermore, each conflict will be marked as annotation on the contig sequence and will be present if the contig sequence is extracted for further analysis. As a result, the details of any experimental heterogeneity can be maintained and used when the result of single-sequence analyzes is interpreted.

When the parameters have been adjusted, click **Next**, to see the dialog shown in figure 18.8

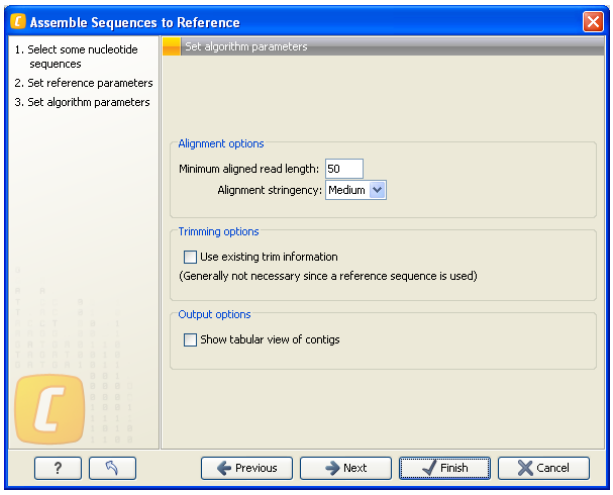

Figure 18.8: *Different options for the output of the assembly.*

In this dialog, you can specify more options:

- **Minimum aligned read length.** The minimum number of nucleotides in a read which must be successfully aligned to the contig. If this criteria is not met by a read, this is excluded from the assembly.
- **Alignment stringency.** Specifies the stringency of the scoring function used by the alignment step in the contig assembly algorithm. A higher stringency level will tend to produce contigs with less ambiguities but will also tend to omit more sequencing reads and to generate more and shorter contigs. Three stringency levels can be set:
  - **Low.**
  - **Medium.**
  - **High.**
- **Use existing trim information.** When using a reference sequence, trimming is generally not necessary, but if you wish to use trimming you can check this box. It requires that the sequence reads have been trimmed beforehand (see section 18.2 for more information about trimming).

- **Show tabular view of contigs.** A contig can be shown both in a graphical as well as a tabular view. If you select this option, a tabular view of the contig will also be opened (Even if you do not select this option, you can show the tabular view of the contig later on by clicking **Show** ( ) and selecting **Table** ( ).) For more information about the tabular view of contigs, see section 18.6.6.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will start the assembly process. See section 18.6 on how to use the resulting contigs.

18.5 Add sequences to an existing contig

This section describes how to assemble sequences to an existing contig. This feature can be used for example to provide a steady work-flow when a number of exons from the same gene are sequenced one at a time and assembled to a reference sequence.

To start the assembly:

select one contig and a number of sequences | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Sequencing Data Analyses ( ) | Add Sequences to Contig ( )

or **right-click the empty white area of the contig | Add Sequences to Contig ( )**

This opens a dialog where you can alter your choice of sequences which you want to assemble. You can also add sequence lists.

When the elements are selected, click **Next**, and you will see the dialog shown in figure 18.9

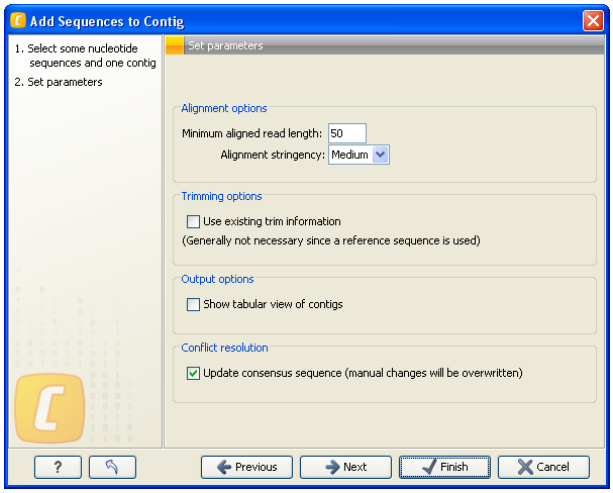

Figure 18.9: *Setting assembly parameters when assembling to an existing contig.*

The options in this dialog are similar to the options that are available when assembling to a reference sequence (see section 18.4).

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will start the assembly process. See section 18.6 on how to use the resulting contig.

18.6 View and edit contigs

The result of the assembly process is one or more contigs where the sequence reads have been aligned (see figure 18.10).

Figure 18.10: *The view of a contig. Notice that you can zoom to a very detailed level in contigs.*

You can see that color of the residues and trace at the end of one of the reads has been faded. This indicates, that this region has not contributed to the contig. This may be due to trimming before or during the assembly or due to misalignment to the other reads.

You can easily adjust the trimmed area to include more of the read in the contig: simply drag the edge of the faded area as shown in figure 18.11.

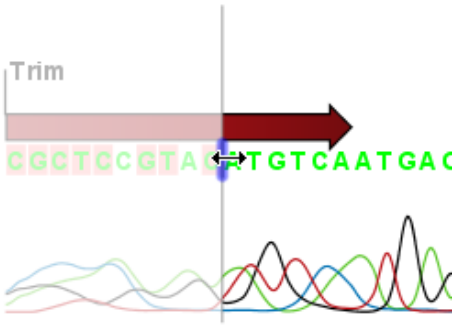

Figure 18.11: *Dragging the edge of the faded area.*

If reads have been reversed, this is indicated by red. Otherwise, the residues are colored green. The colors can be changed in the **Side Panel** as described in section 18.6.1

If you find out that the reversed reads should have been the forward reads and vice versa, you can reverse the whole contig:

right-click the empty white area of the contig | Reverse Contig

18.6.1 Contig view settings in the Side Panel

Apart from this the view resembles that of alignments (see section 20.2) but has some extra preferences in the **Side Panel**:

- **Assembly Layout.** A new preference group located at the top of the **Side Panel**:
  - **Gather sequences at top.** Enabling this option affects the view that is shown when scrolling horizontally along a contig. If selected, the sequence reads which did not contribute to the visible part of the contig will be omitted whereas the contributing sequence reads will automatically be placed right below the contig.
  - **Show sequence ends.** Regions that have been trimmed are shown with faded traces and residues. This illustrates that these regions have been ignored during the assembly.
  - **Find Inconsistency.** Clicking this button selects the next position where there is an conflict between the sequence reads. Residues that are different from the contig are colored (as default), providing an overview of the inconsistencies. Since the next inconsistency in the contig is automatically selected it is easy to make changes. You can also use the Space key to find the next inconsistency.
- **Sequence layout.** There is one additional parameter regarding the sequence layout:
  - **Compactness**: In the **Sequence Layout** view preferences, you can control the level of sequence detail to be displayed:
    - **Not compact.** The normal setting with full detail.
    - **Low.** Hides the trace data and puts the reads' annotations on the sequence.
    - **Medium.** The labels of the reads and their annotations are hidden, and the residues of the reads can not be seen.
    - **Compact.** Even less space between the reads.
  - Furthermore, it is not possible to wrap contigs as you can do with alignments.
- **Alignment info.** There is one additional parameter:
  - **Coverage**: Shows how many sequence reads that are contributing information to a given position in the contig. The level of coverage is relative to the overall number of sequence reads that are included in the contig.
    - **Foreground color.** Colors the letters using a gradient, where the left side color is used for low coverage and the right side is used for maximum coverage.
    - **Background color.** Colors the background of the letters using a gradient, where the left side color is used for low coverage and the right side is used for maximum coverage
    - **Graph.** The coverage is displayed as a graph beneath the contig.
      - **Height.** Specifies the height of the graph.
      - **Type.** The graph can be displayed as Line plot, Bar plot or as a Color bar.
      - **Color box.** For Line and Bar plots, the color of the plot can be set by clicking the color box. If a Color bar is chosen, the color box is replaced by a gradient color box as described under Foreground color.
- **Residue coloring.** There is one additional parameter:

- **Assembly Colors.** This option lets you use different colors for the residues of the contig and the forward and reverse reads. It is particularly useful for getting an overview of forward and reverse reads in the contig:
  - **Contig color.** Colors the residues of the contig sequence with the specified color (can be changed by clicking the colored box).
  - **Forward color.** Colors the residues of forward reads with the specified color (can be changed by clicking the colored box).
  - **Reverse color.** Colors the residues of reverse reads with the specified color (can be changed by clicking the colored box).

Beside from these preferences, all the functionalities of the alignment view are available. This means that you can e.g. add annotations (such as SNP annotations) to regions of interest in the contig.

However, some of the parameters from alignment views are set at a different default value in the view of contigs. Trace data of the sequencing reads are shown if present (can be enabled and disabled under the Nucleotide info preference group), and the **Color different residues** option is also enabled in order to provide a better overview of conflicts (can be changed in the Alignment info preference group).

18.6.2 Editing the contig

When editing contigs, you are typically interested in confirming or changing single bases, and this can be done simply by:

selecting the base | **typing the right base**

Some users prefer to use lower-case letters in order to be able to see which bases were altered when they use the contig later on. In *CLC Combined Workbench* all changes to the contig are recorded in its history log (see section 8) allowing the user to quickly reconstruct the actions performed in the editing session.

There are three shortcut keys for easily finding the positions where there are inconsistencies:

- Space bar: Finds the *next* inconsistency.
- "." (punctuation mark key): Finds the *next* inconsistency.
- "," (comma key): Finds the *previous* inconsistency.

In the contig view, you can use **Zoom in** ( ) to zoom to a greater level of detail than in other views (see figure 18.10). This is useful for discerning the trace curves.

If you want to replace a residue with a gap, use the **Delete** key.

If you wish to edit a selection of more than one residue:

right-click the selection | **Edit Selection (** **)**

This will show a warning dialog, but you can choose never to see this dialog again by clicking the checkbox at the bottom of the dialog.

18.6.3 Sorting reads

If you wish to change the order of the sequence reads, simply drag the label of the sequence up and down. You can also sort the reads by right-clicking a sequence label and choose from the following options:

- **Sort Reads by Alignment Start Position.** This will list the first read in the contig at the top etc.
- **Sort Reads by Name.** Sort the reads alphabetically.
- **Sort Reads by Length.** The shortest reads will be listed at the top.

18.6.4 Assembly conflicts

When the contig is created, conflicts between the reads are annotated on the consensus sequence. The definition of a conflict is *a position where at least one of the reads have a different residue*.

A conflict can be in two states:

- **Conflict**. Both the annotation and the corresponding row in the Contig table ( ) are colored **red**.
- **Resolved**. Both the annotation and the corresponding row in the Contig table ( ) are colored **green**.

The conflict can be resolved by correcting the deviating residues in the reads as described above.

A fast way of making all the reads reflect the consensus sequence is to select the position in the consensus, right-click the selection, and choose **Transfer Selection to All Reads**.

The opposite is also possible: make a selection on one of the reads, right click, and **Transfer Selection to Contig Sequence**.

18.6.5 Output from the contig

Due to the integrated nature of *CLC Combined Workbench* it is easy to use the created contig-sequence as input for additional analyzes. If you wish to use the contig-sequence for other analyses:

right-click the name of the contig (to the left) | Open Copy of Sequence in New View | Save ( ) the new sequence

This will generate a new nucleotide sequence which can be used for e.g. BLAST analysis or cloning construction.

In order to preserve the history of the changes you have made to the contig, the contig itself should be saved from the contig view, using either the save button ( ) or by dragging it to the **Navigation Area**.

18.6.6 Assembly variance table

In addition to the standard graphical display of a contig as described above, you can also see a tabular overview of the conflicts in the contig:

right-click the tab of the contig | Show | Table ( )

This will display a new view of the conflicts as shown in figure 18.12.

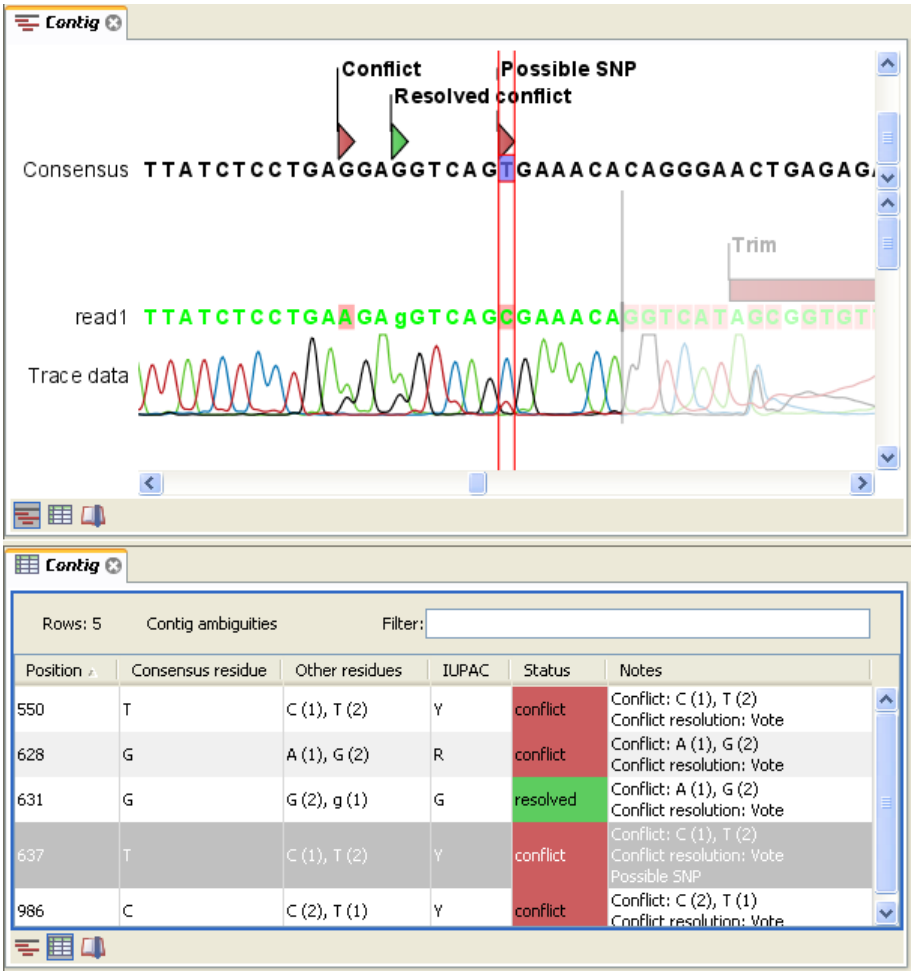

Figure 18.12: *The graphical view of a contig is displayed at the top. At the bottom the conflicts are shown in a table. At the conflict at position 637, the user has entered a comment in the table. This comment is now also reflected on the tooltip of the conflict annotation in the graphical view above.*

The table has the following columns:

- **Position.** The position of the conflict measured from the starting point of the contig sequence.
- **Consensus residue.** The contig's residue at this position. The residue can be edited in the graphical view of the contig, as described above.
- **Other residues.** Lists the residues of the reads. Inside the brackets, you can see the number of reads having this residue at this position. In the example in figure 18.12, you can see that at position 637 there is a 'C' in the top read in the graphical view. The other two reads have a 'T'. Therefore, the table displays the following text: 'C (1), T (2)'.

- **IUPAC.** The ambiguity code for this position. The ambiguity code reflects the residues in the reads - not in the consensus sequence. (The IUPAC codes can be found in section F.)
- **Status.** The status can either be conflict or resolved:
  - **Conflict.** Initially, all the rows in the table have this status. This means that there is one or more differences between the sequences at this position.
  - **Resolved.** If you edit the sequences in the contig, e.g. if there was an error in one of the sequences, and they now all have the same residue at this position, the status is set to *Resolved*.
- **Note.** Can be used for your own comments on this conflict. Right-click in this cell of the table to add or edit the comments. The comments in the table are associated with the conflict annotation on the contig. Therefore, the comments you enter in the table will also be attached to the annotation on the contig sequence (the comments can be displayed by placing the mouse cursor on the annotation for one second - see figure 18.12). The comments are saved when you save the contig.

By clicking a row in the table, the corresponding position is highlighted in the graphical view of the contig. Clicking the rows of the table is another way of navigating the contig, apart from using the **Find Inconsistencies** button or using the **Space bar**. You can use the up and down arrow keys to navigate the rows of the table.

18.7 Reassemble contig

If you have edited a contig, changed trimmed regions, or added or removed reads, you may wish to reassemble the contig. This can be done in two ways:

Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Sequencing Data Analyses ( ) **| Reassemble Contig** ( ) **| select the contig and click Next**

or **right-click the empty white area of the contig | Reassemble contig** ( )

This opens a dialog as shown in figure 18.13

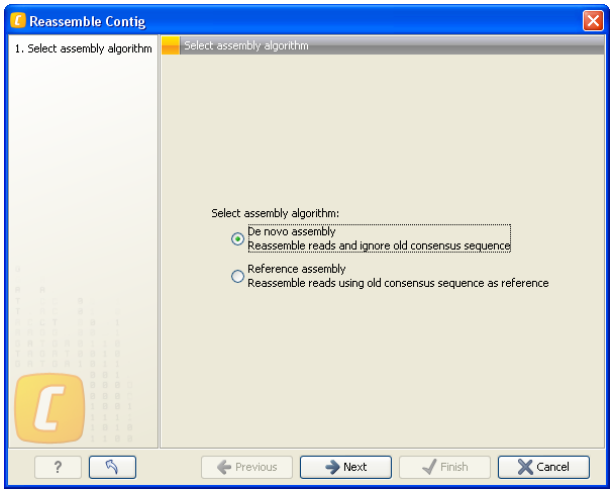

Figure 18.13: *Re-assembling a contig.*

In this dialog, you can choose:

- **De novo assembly**. This will perform a normal assembly in the same way as if you had selected the reads as individual sequences. When you click **Next**, you will follow the same steps as described in section 18.3. The consensus sequence of the contig will be ignored.
- **Reference assembly**. This will use the consensus sequence of the contig as reference. When you click **Next**, you will follow the same steps as described in section 18.4.

When you click **Finish**, a new contig is created, so you do not lose the information in the old contig.

18.8 Secondary peak calling

CLC Combined Workbench is able to detect secondary peaks - a peak within a peak - to help discover heterozygous mutations. Looking at the height of the peak below the top peak, the *CLC Combined Workbench* considers all positions in a sequence, and if a peak is higher than the threshold set by the user, it will be "called".

The peak is called by changing the residue to an ambiguity character and by adding an annotation at this position.

To call secondary peaks:

select sequence(s) | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Sequencing Data Analyses** ( ) | **Call Secondary Peaks** ( )

This opens a dialog where you can alter your choice of sequences.

When the sequences are selected, click **Next**.

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 18.14.

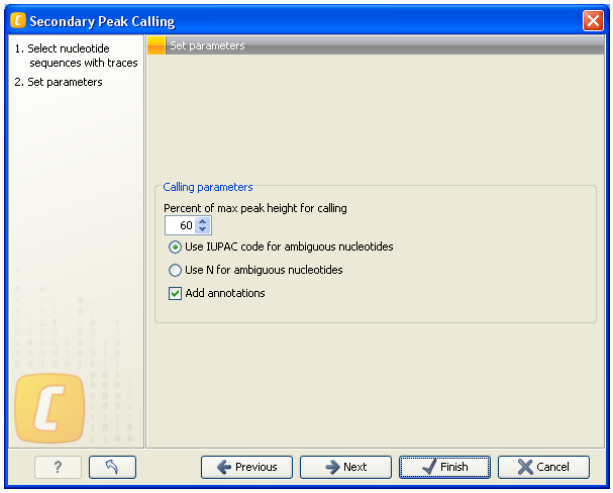

Figure 18.14: *Setting parameters secondary peak calling.*

The following parameters can be adjusted in the dialog:

- **Percent of max peak height for calling.** Adjust this value to specify how high the secondary peak must be to be called.

- **Use IUPAC code / N for ambiguous nucleotides.** When a secondary peak is called, the residue at this position can either be replaced by an N or by a ambiguity character based on the IUPAC codes (see section F).
- **Add annotations.** In addition to changing the actual sequence, annotations can be added for each base which has been called.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. This will start the secondary peak calling. A detailed history entry will be added to the history specifying all the changes made to the sequence.

Chapter 19

Cloning and cutting

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CLC Combined Workbench offers graphically advanced *in silico* cloning and design of vectors for various purposes together with restriction enzyme analysis and functionalities for managing lists of restriction enzymes.

First, after a brief introduction, the cloning and vector design is explained. Next, the restriction site analyses are described.

19.1 Molecular cloning

Molecular cloning is a very important tool in the quest to understand gene function and regulation. Through molecular cloning it is possible to study individual genes in a controlled environment.

Using molecular cloning it is possible to build complete libraries of fragments of DNA inserted into appropriate cloning vectors.

We offer a significantly different approach for visual *in silico* cloning than other software tools. In *CLC Combined Workbench* the user is in total control of the cloning process.

The *in silico* cloning process in *CLC Combined Workbench* begins with the selection of sequences to be used (typically a vector sequence and an insert):

> **select the sequences in the Navigation Area | Toolbox in the Menu Bar | Cloning and Restriction Sites ( ) | Cloning ( )**

This will open a view of the selected sequences similar to figure 19.1.

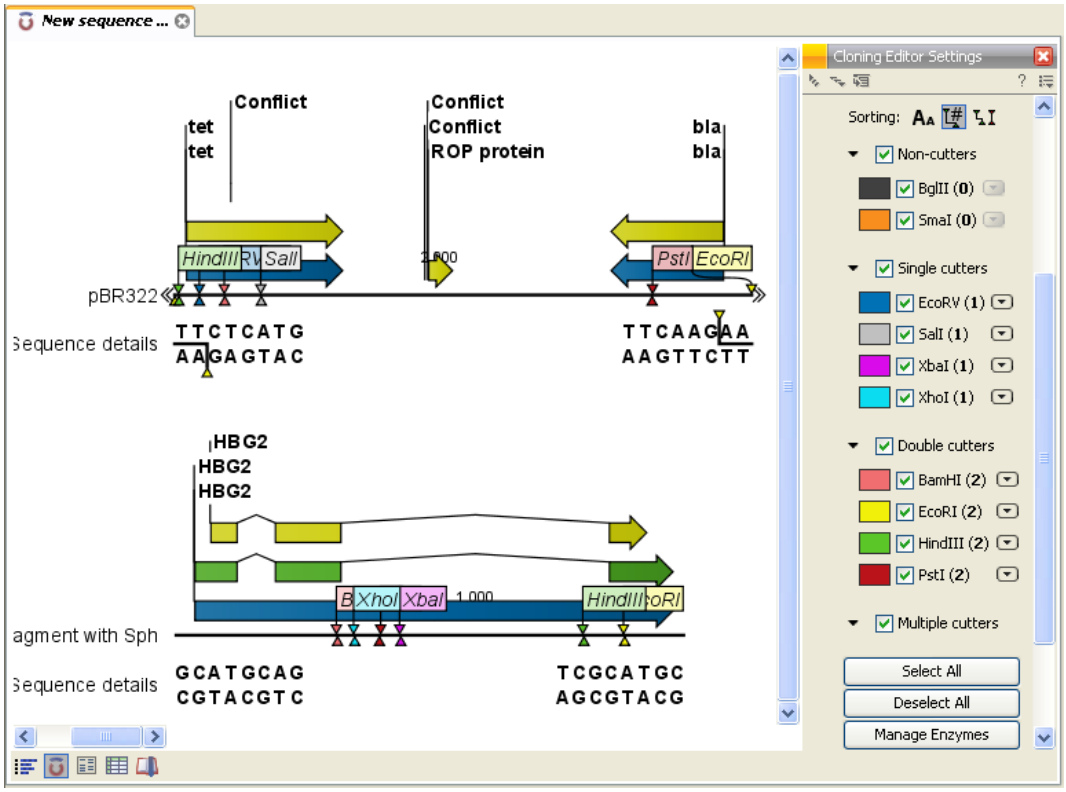

Figure 19.1: *Two sequences in the cloning view.*

If you later in the process need additional sequences, you can easily add more sequences to the view. Just:

> **right-click anywhere on the empty white area | Add Sequences**

19.1.1 Introduction to the cloning view

The cloning view operates with a linear representation of the sequences even though they might be circular. Circular sequence are represented with a small << and >> at the ends of each sequence. When you have finished designing your cloning sequence, you can open it in a circular view (see section 19.1.7).

When you save the content of a cloning view, it is saved as a **Sequence list**. See section 10.7 for more information about sequence lists.

In the cloning view, most of the basic options for viewing, selecting and zooming the sequences are the same as for the standard sequence viewer. See section 10.1 for an explanation of these options. This means that features such as e.g. known SNP's, exons and other annotations can be displayed on the sequences to guide the choice of regions to clone.

However, the cloning view has many additional interaction possibilities compared to the normal sequence view, and there are several extra visual aids to help you manipulate the sequences. All of this is described in the following.

19.1.2 Sequence details

When you make a selection on the sequence, you will see details of the residues and restriction sites as illustrated in figure 19.2.

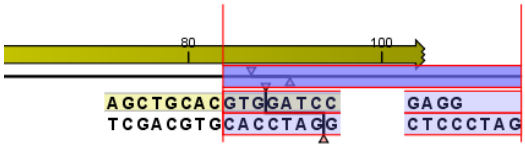

Figure 19.2: *Sequence details of a selection. At the top, the sequence is zoomed out and represented as a black line with annotations, and below the residues are shown (double stranded) with detailed visualization of restriction sites.*

The **Sequence details** are particularly useful when the sequences have overhangs, as shown at the right-side end of the sequence in figure 19.2 which has a "CTAG" overhang.

If you have not made a selection, the details of the ends of the sequences will automatically be shown.

The sequence details can turned on and off by clicking **Show** in the **Sequence details** group at the top of the Side Panel.

19.1.3 How to navigate the cloning view

The zoom function in the cloning view works on the individual sequence and not the entire view. In that way you can show a long plasmid and short sequence fragments in the same view. However, **Fit Width** ( ) and **Zoom to 100%** ( ) apply to all the sequences in the view, and can thus be used to reset different zoom levels of the individual sequences.

Using the keyboard to zoom (+ and - keys) will also zoom on all sequences.

19.1.4 Manipulate sequences

All manipulations of sequences are done manually, giving you full control over how the sequence is constructed. Manipulations are performed through right-click menus which have three different appearances depending on where you click, as visualized in figure 19.3.

- **Right-click the sequence name (to the left) to manipulate the whole sequence**.
- **Right-click a selection to manipulate the selection**.

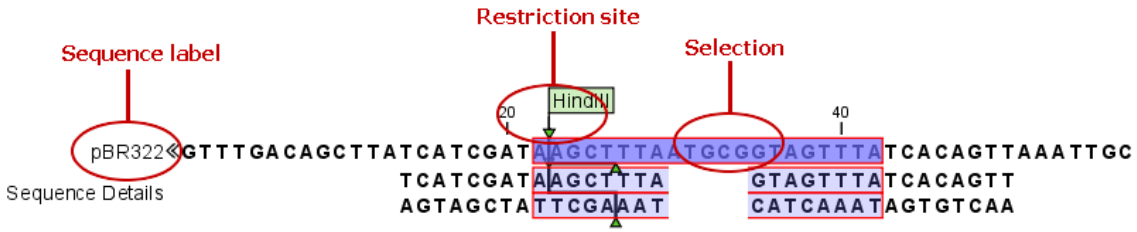

Figure 19.3: *The red circles mark the three places you can use for manipulating the sequences.*

- **Right-click a restriction site to use this specific restriction site or this restriction enzyme for manipulation**.

The three menus are described in the following:

Manipulate the whole sequence

Right-clicking the sequence name at the left side of the view reveals several options on sorting, opening and editing the sequences in the view (see figure 19.4).

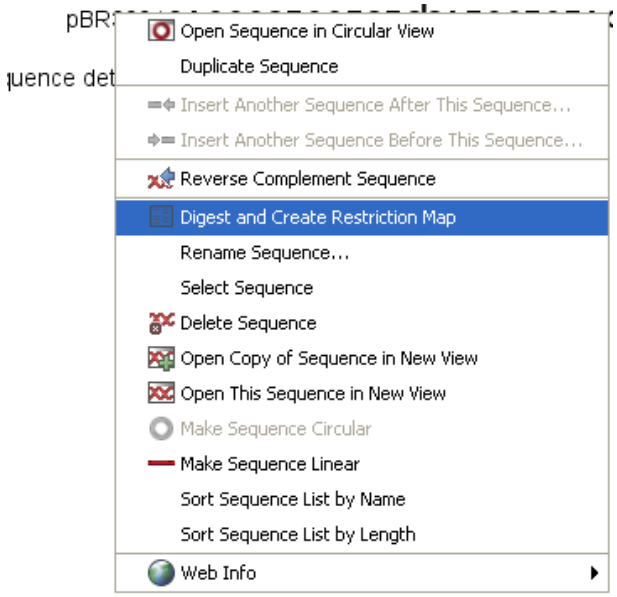

Figure 19.4: *Right click on the sequence in the cloning view.*

- **Open sequence in circular view ( )**
  Opens the sequence in a new circular view. If the sequence is not circular, you will be asked if you wish to make it circular or not. (This will not forge ends with matching overhangs together - use "Make Sequence Circular" ( ) instead.)

- **Duplicate sequence**
  Adds a duplicate of the selected sequence. The new sequence will be added to the list of sequences shown on the screen.

- **Insert sequence after this sequence ( )**
  Insert another sequence after this sequence. The sequence to be inserted can be selected from a list which contains the sequences present in the cloning editor. The inserted

sequence remains on the list of sequences. If the two sequences do not have blunt ends, the ends' overhangs have to match each other. Otherwise a warning is displayed.

- **Insert sequence before this sequence ( )**
  Insert another sequence before this sequence. The sequence to be inserted can be selected from a list which contains the sequences present in the cloning editor. The inserted sequence remains on the list of sequences. If the two sequences do not have blunt ends, the ends' overhangs have to match each other. Otherwise a warning is displayed.

- **Reverse complement sequence ( )**
  Creates the reverse complement of a sequence and replaces the original sequence in the list. This is useful if the vector and the insert sequences are not oriented the same way.

- **Digest Sequence with Selected Enzymes and Run on Gel ( )**
  See section 19.3.1

- **Rename sequence**
  Renames the sequence.

- **Select sequence**
  This will select the entire sequence.

- **Delete sequence ( )**
  This deletes the given sequence from the cloning editor.

- **Open copy of sequence in new view ( )**
  This will open a copy of the selected sequence in a normal sequence view.

- **Open this sequence in new view ( )**
  This will open the selected sequence in a normal sequence view.

- **Make sequence circular ( )**
  This will convert a sequence from a linear to a circular form. If the sequence have matching overhangs at the ends, they will be merged together. If the sequence have incompatible overhangs, a dialog is displayed, and the sequence cannot be made circular. The circular form is represented by >> and << at the ends of the sequence.

- **Make sequence linear ( )**
  This will convert a sequence from a circular to a linear form, removing the << and >> at the ends.

- **Sort sequence list by name**
  This will sort all the sequences in the cloning editor alphabetically by name.

- **Sort sequences by length**
  This will sort all the sequences in the cloning editor by length.

Manipulate parts of the sequence

Right-clicking a selection reveals several options on manipulating the selection (see figure 19.5).

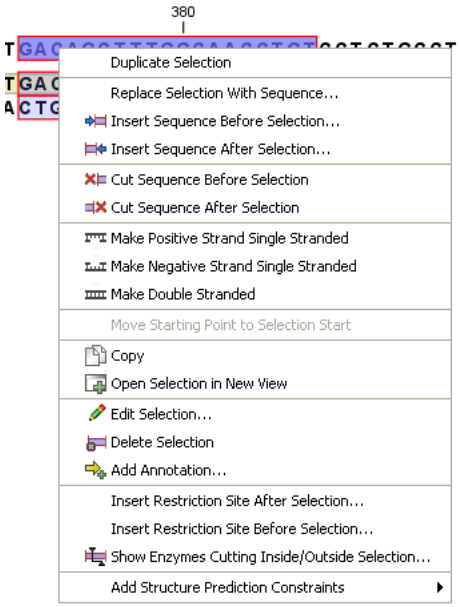

Figure 19.5: *Right click on a sequence selection in the cloning view.*

- **Replace Selection with sequence.** This will replace the selected region with a sequence. The sequence to be inserted can be selected from a list containing all sequences in the cloning editor.
- **Insert Sequence before Selection ( ).** Insert a sequence before the selected region. The sequence to be inserted can be selected from a list containing all sequences in the cloning editor.
- **Insert Sequence after Selection ( ).** Insert a sequence after the selected region. The sequence to be inserted can be selected from a list containing all sequences in the cloning editor.
- **Cut Sequence before Selection ( ).** This will cleave the sequence before the selection and will result in two smaller fragments.
- **Cut Sequence after Selection ( ).** This will cleave the sequence after the selection and will result in two smaller fragments.
- **Make Positive Strand Single Stranded ( ).** This will make the positive strand of the selected region single stranded.
- **Make Negative Strand Single Stranded ( ).** This will make the negative strand of the selected region single stranded.
- **Make Double Stranded ( ).** This will make the selected region double stranded.
- **Copy Selection ( ).** This will copy the selected region to the clipboard, which will enable it for use in other programs.
- **Duplicate Selection.** If a selection on the sequence is duplicated, the selected region will be added as a new sequence to the cloning editor with a new sequence name representing the length of the fragment.

- **Open Selection in New View ( ).** This will open the selected region in the normal sequence view.
- **Edit Selection ( ).** This will open a dialog box, in which is it possible to edit the selected residues.
- **Delete Selection ( ).** This will delete the selected region of the sequence.
- **Add Annotation ( ).** This will open the **Add annotation** dialog box.
- **Show Enzymes Only Cutting Selection ( ).** This will add enzymes cutting this selection to the Side Panel.
- **Insert Restriction Sites before/after Selection.** This will show a dialog where you can choose from a list restriction enzymes (see section 19.1.6).

Manipulate using restriction sites

Right-click on a restriction site gives you the following options (see figure 19.6):

'Restriction site' in the list below indicates a name on a selection restriction site. This could for example be EcoRV.

- **Cut this sequence at this EcoRV site ( ).** This will cut the sequence at this particular site and only this site.
- **Cut this sequence at all EcoRV sites.** This will cut the sequence at all identical restriction sites, but at no other sites.
- **Cut all sequences at all EcoRV sites.** This will cut all sequences in the cloning editor with this particular restriction enzyme. This can potentially generate a lot of sequence fragments.
- **Insert sequence at this EcoRV site.** This will insert a sequence from a list of the other sequences into this particular site.
- **Add as Annotation.** This will add an annotation to the sequence indicating the recognition site and cut site of the enzyme. By doing this, the cut information will be retained on the sequence in other contexts.
- **Show Enzymes with Compatible Ends ( ).** See section 19.2.1.

When a restriction site is double-clicked the recognition site is marked on the sequence and the cut this is marked by arrows. When a sequence region between two restriction sites are double-clicked the entire region will automatically be selected. This makes it very easy to make a new sequence from a fragment created by cutting with two restriction sites (right-click the selection and choose **Duplicate selection**).

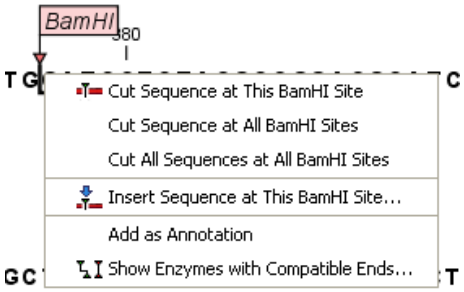

Figure 19.6: *Right-click on a restriction enzyme annotation in the cloning view.*

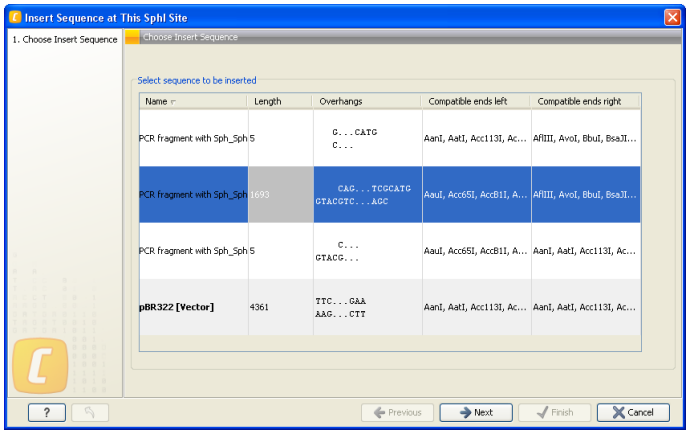

Figure 19.7: *Select a sequence for insertion.*

19.1.5 Insert one sequence into another

Sequences can be inserted into each other in several ways as described in the lists above. When you chose to insert one sequence into another you will be presented with a dialog where all sequences in the view are present (see figure 19.7).

The sequence that you have chosen to insert into will be marked with **bold** and the text **[vector]** is appended to the sequence name.

The list furthermore includes the length of the fragment, an indication of the overhangs, and a list of enzymes that are compatible with this overhang (for the left and right ends, respectively). If not all the enzymes can be shown, place your mouse cursor on the enzymes, and a full list will be shown in the tool tip.

Select the sequence you wish to insert and click **Next**.

This will show the dialog in figure 19.8).

At the top is a button to reverse complement the inserted sequence.

Below is a visualization of the insertion details. The inserted sequence is at the middle shown in red, and the vector has been split at the insertion point and the ends are shown at each side of the inserted sequence.

If the overhangs of the sequence and the vector do not match, you can blunt end or fill in the overhangs using the **drag handles** ( ).

Whenever you drag the handles, the status of the insertion point is indicated below:

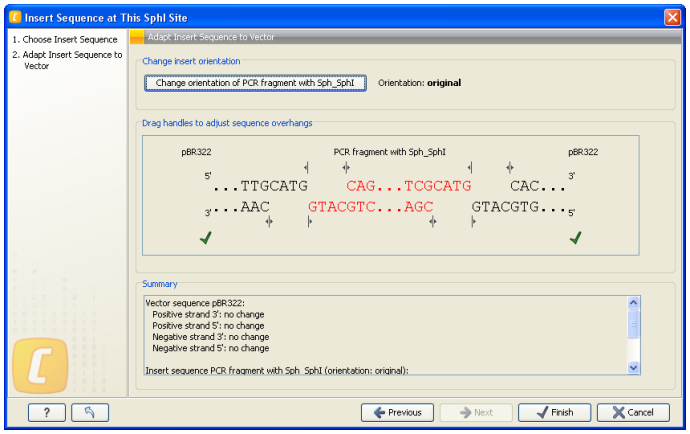

Figure 19.8: *Drag the handles to adjust overhangs.*

- The overhangs match (✓).
- The overhangs do not match (⊘). In this case, you will not be able to click **Finish**. Drag the handles to make the overhangs match.

At the bottom of the dialog is a summary field which records all the changes made to the overhangs. This contents of the summary will also be written in the history (📖) when you click **Finish**.

When you click **Finish** and the sequence is inserted, it will be marked with a selection.

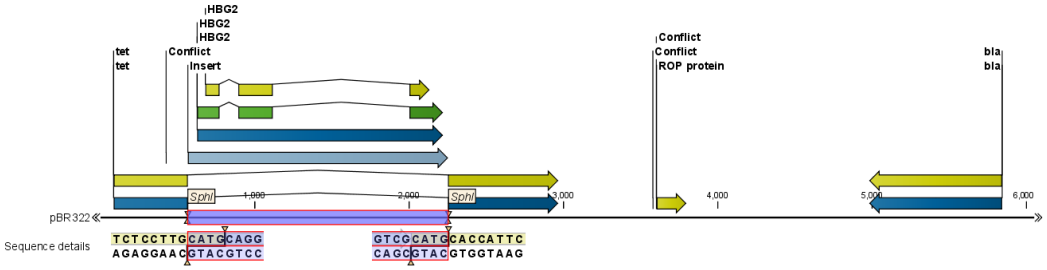

Figure 19.9: *One sequence is now inserted into the cloning vector. The sequence inserted is automatically selected.*

19.1.6 Insert restriction site

If you make a selection on the sequence, right-click, you find this option for inserting the recognition sequence of a restriction enzyme before or after the region you selected. This will display a dialog as shown in figure 19.10

At the top, you can select an existing enzyme list or you can use the full list of enzymes (default). Select an enzyme, and you will see its recognition sequence in the text field below the list (GTCTAC). If you wish to insert additional residues such as tags etc., this can be typed into the text fields adjacent to the recognition sequence. .

Click **OK** will insert the sequence before or after the selection. If the enzyme selected was not already present in the list in the **Side Panel**, the it will now be added and selected. Furthermore, an restriction site annotation is added.

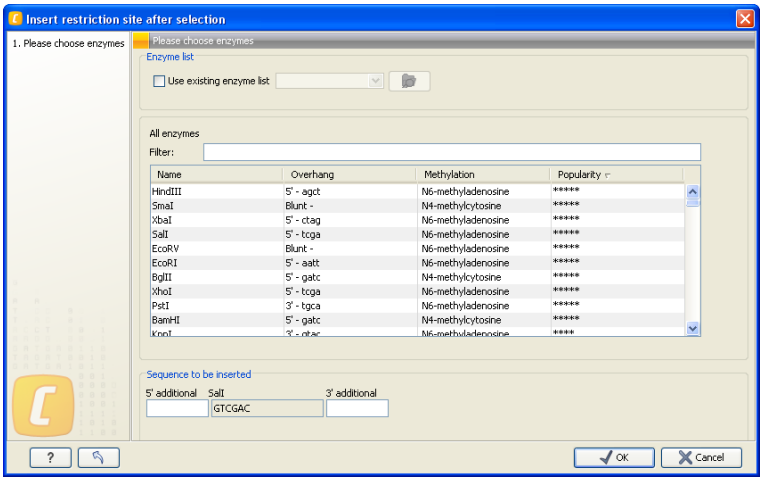

Figure 19.10: *Inserting the SalI recognition sequence.*

19.1.7 Show in a circular view

The sequences stored in the cloning view can be saved to a sequence list and later be opened again for further editing. A sequence list is represented by the following icon in the **Navigation Area** ( ).

After finishing the *in silico* cloning in a linear mode the newly formed cloning vector or plasmid can easily be visualized in circular mode. Simply verify that the molecule is circular (right-click the sequence name) and right-click the sequence name and press "open sequence in circular view". Then you have a circular view as displayed in figure 19.11.

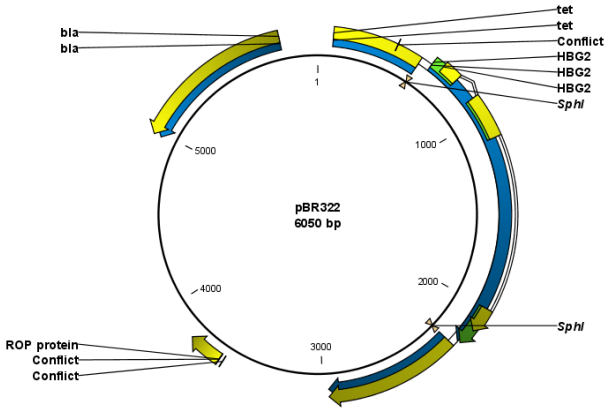

Figure 19.11: *Final circular view of the plasmid.*

19.2 Restriction site analysis

There are two ways of finding and showing restriction sites:

- In many cases, the dynamic restriction sites found in the **Side Panel** of sequence views will be useful, since it is a quick and easy way of showing restriction sites.
- In the **Toolbox** you will find the other way of doing restriction site analyses. This way provides more control of the analysis and gives you more output options, e.g. a table

of restriction sites and you can perform the same restriction map analysis on several sequences in one step.

This chapter first describes the dynamic restriction sites, followed by "the toolbox way". This section also includes an explanation of how to simulate a gel with the selected enzymes. The final section in this chapter focuses on enzyme lists which represent an easy way of managing restriction enzymes.

19.2.1 Dynamic restriction sites

If you open a sequence, a sequence list etc, you will find the **Restriction Sites** group in the **Side Panel**.

As shown in figure 19.12 you can display restriction sites as colored triangles and lines on the sequence. The **Restriction sites** group in the side panel shows a list of enzymes, represented by different colors corresponding to the colors of the triangles on the sequence. By selecting or deselecting the enzymes in the list, you can specify which enzymes' restriction sites should be displayed.

Figure 19.12: *Showing restriction sites of ten restriction enzymes.*

The color of the restriction enzyme can be changed by clicking the colored box next to the enzyme's name. The name of the enzyme can also be shown next to the restriction site by selecting **Show name flags** above the list of restriction enzymes.

Sort enzymes

Just above the list of enzymes there are three buttons to be used for sorting the list (see figure 19.13):

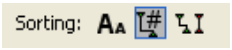

Figure 19.13: *Buttons to sort restriction enzymes.*

- **Sort enzymes alphabetically** (). Clicking this button will sort the list of enzymes alphabetically.
- **Sort enzymes by number of restriction sites** (). This will divide the enzymes into four groups:
  - Non-cutters.
  - Single cutters.
  - Double cutters.
  - Multiple cutters.

  There is a checkbox for each group which can be used to hide / show all the enzymes in a group.
-
- **Sort enzymes by overhang** (). This will divide the enzymes into three groups:
  - Blunt. Enzymes cutting both strands at the same position.
  - 3'. Enzymes producing an overhang at the 3' end.
  - 5'. Enzymes producing an overhang at the 5' end.

  There is a checkbox for each group which can be used to hide / show all the enzymes in a group.

Manage enzymes

The list of restriction enzymes contains per default 20 of the most popular enzymes, but you can easily modify this list and add more enzymes by clicking the fManage enzymes button. This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.14.

At the top, you can choose to **Use existing enzyme list**. Clicking this option lets you select an enzyme list which is stored in the **Navigation Area**. See section 19.4 for more about creating and modifying enzyme lists.

Below there are two panels:

- To the **left**, you see all the enzymes that are in the list select above. If you have not chosen to use an existing enzyme list, this panel shows all the enzymes available [1].
- To the **right**, there is a list of the enzymes that will be used.

[1] The *CLC Combined Workbench* comes with a standard set of enzymes based on http://www.rebase.org

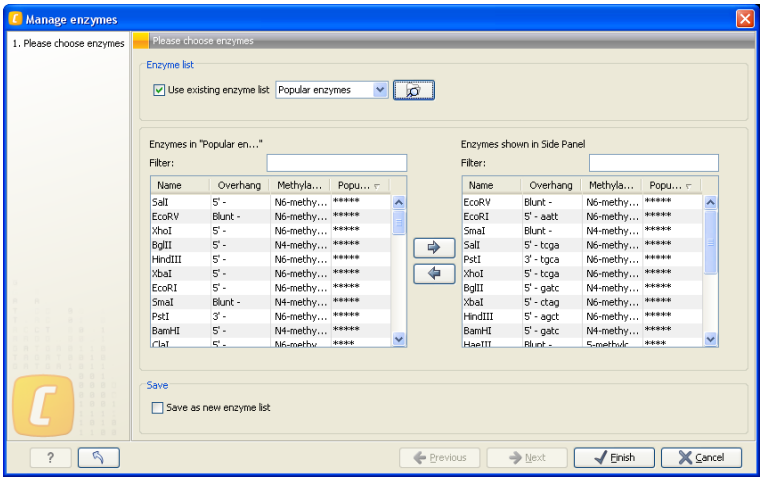

Figure 19.14: *Adding or removing enzymes from the Side Panel.*

Select enzymes in the left side panel and add them to the right panel by double-clicking or clicking the **Add** button (➡). If you e.g. wish to use EcoRV and BamHI, select these two enzymes and add them to the right side panel.

If you wish to use all the enzymes in the list:

Click in the panel to the left | press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac) | Add (➡)

The enzymes can be sorted by clicking the column headings, i.e. Name, Overhang, Methylation or Popularity. This is particularly useful if you wish to use enzymes which produce e.g. a 3' overhang. In this case, you can sort the list by clicking the Overhang column heading, and all the enzymes producing 3' overhangs will be listed together for easy selection.

When looking for a specific enzyme, it is easier to use the Filter. If you wish to find e.g. HindIII sites, simply type HindIII into the filter, and the list of enzymes will shrink automatically to only include the HindIII enzyme. This can also be used to only show enzymes producing e.g. a 3' overhang as shown in figure 19.33.

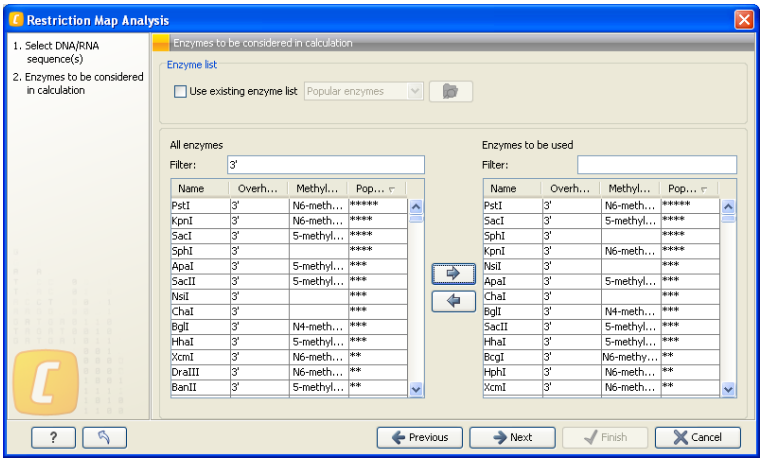

Figure 19.15: *Selecting enzymes.*

If you need more detailed information and filtering of the enzymes, either place your mouse cursor on an enzyme for one second to display additional information (see figure 19.34), or use the view of enzyme lists (see 19.4).

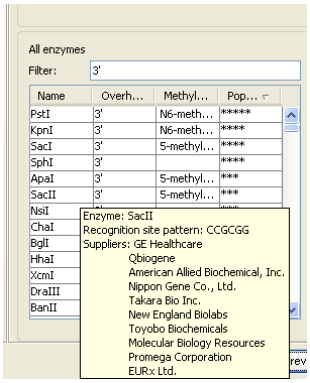

Figure 19.16: *Showing additional information about an enzyme like recognition sequence or a list of commercial vendors.*

At the bottom of the dialog, you can select to save this list of enzymes as a new file. In this way, you can save the selection of enzymes for later use.

When you click **Finish**, the enzymes are added to the Side Panel and the cut sites are shown on the sequence.

If you have specified a set of enzymes which you always use, it will probably be a good idea to save the settings in the Side Panel (see section 3.2.7) for future use.

Show enzymes cutting inside/outside selection

Section 19.2.1 describes how to add more enzymes to the list in the Side Panel based on the name of the enzyme, overhang, methylation sensitivity etc. However, you will often find yourself in a situation where you need a more sophisticated and explorative approach.

An illustrative example: you have a selection on a sequence, and you wish to find enzymes cutting within the selection, but not outside. This problem often arises during design of cloning experiments. In this case, you do not know the name of the enzyme, so you want the Workbench to find the enzymes for you:

right-click the selection | Show Enzymes Cutting Inside/Outside Selection ( )

This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.17 where you can specify which enzymes should initially be considered.

At the top, you can choose to **Use existing enzyme list**. Clicking this option lets you select an enzyme list which is stored in the **Navigation Area**. See section 19.4 for more about creating and modifying enzyme lists.

Below there are two panels:

- To the **left**, you see all the enzymes that are in the list select above. If you have not chosen to use an existing enzyme list, this panel shows all the enzymes available [2].
- To the **right**, there is a list of the enzymes that will be used.

Select enzymes in the left side panel and add them to the right panel by double-clicking or clicking

[2] The *CLC Combined Workbench* comes with a standard set of enzymes based on http://www.rebase.org

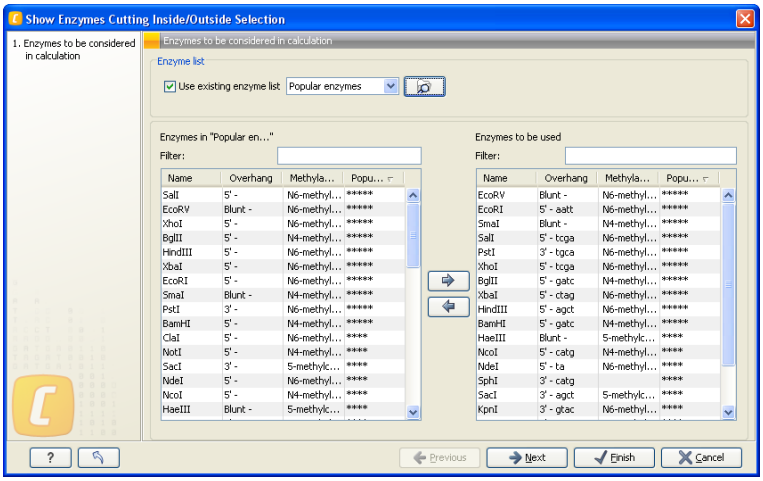

Figure 19.17: *Choosing enzymes to be considered.*

the **Add** button (➡). If you e.g. wish to use EcoRV and BamHI, select these two enzymes and add them to the right side panel.

If you wish to use all the enzymes in the list:

Click in the panel to the left | press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac) | Add (➡)

The enzymes can be sorted by clicking the column headings, i.e. Name, Overhang, Methylation or Popularity. This is particularly useful if you wish to use enzymes which produce e.g. a 3' overhang. In this case, you can sort the list by clicking the Overhang column heading, and all the enzymes producing 3' overhangs will be listed together for easy selection.

When looking for a specific enzyme, it is easier to use the Filter. If you wish to find e.g. HindIII sites, simply type HindIII into the filter, and the list of enzymes will shrink automatically to only include the HindIII enzyme. This can also be used to only show enzymes producing e.g. a 3' overhang as shown in figure 19.33.

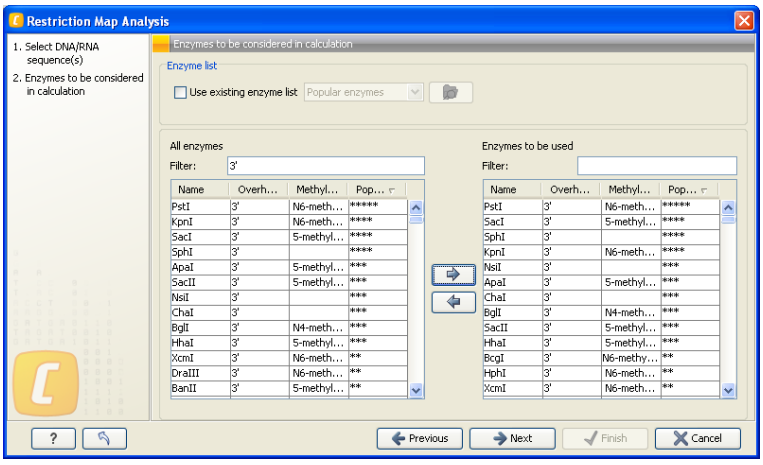

Figure 19.18: *Selecting enzymes.*

If you need more detailed information and filtering of the enzymes, either place your mouse cursor on an enzyme for one second to display additional information (see figure 19.34), or use the view of enzyme lists (see 19.4).

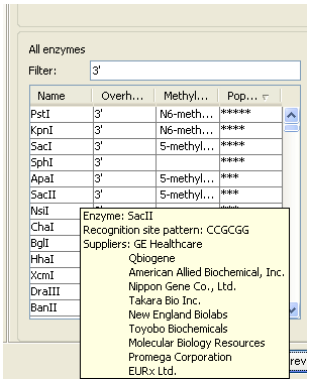

Figure 19.19: *Showing additional information about an enzyme like recognition sequence or a list of commercial vendors.*

Clicking **Next** will show the dialog in figure 19.20.

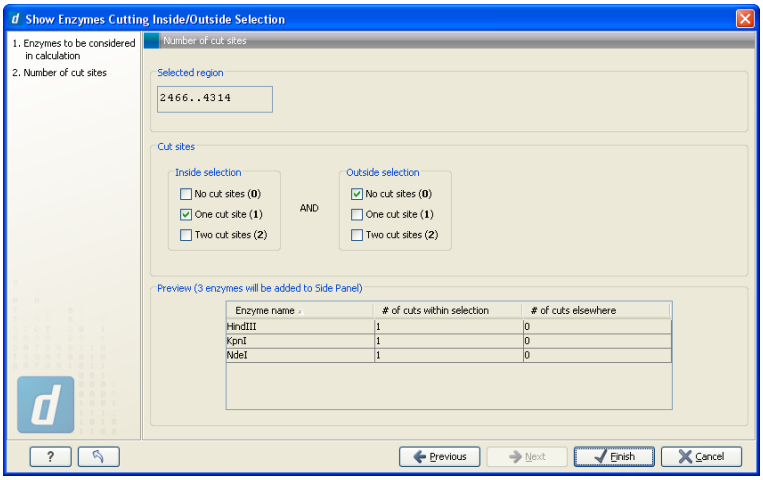

Figure 19.20: *Deciding number of cut sites inside and outside the selection.*

At the top of the dialog, you see the selected region, and below are two panels:

- **Inside selection**. Specify how many times you wish the enzyme to cut inside the selection. In the example described above, "One cut site (1)" should be selected to only show enzymes cutting once in the selection.
- **Outside selection**. Specify how many times you wish the enzyme to cut outside the selection (i.e. the rest of the sequence). In the example above, "No cut sites (0)" should be selected.

These panels offer a lot of flexibility for combining number of cut sites inside and outside the selection, respectively. To give a hint of how many enzymes will be added based on the combination of cut sites, the preview panel at the bottom lists the enzymes which will be added when you click **Finish**. Note that this list is dynamically updated when you change the number of cut sites.

If you have selected more than one region on the sequence (using Ctrl or ⌘), they will be treated as individual regions. This means that the criteria for cut sites apply to each region.

Show enzymes with compatible ends

Besides what is described above, there is a third way of adding enzymes to the Side Panel and thereby displaying them on the sequence. It is based on the overhang produced by cutting with an enzyme and will find enzymes producing a compatible overhang:

right-click the restriction site | Show Enzymes with Compatible Ends ( )

This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.21.

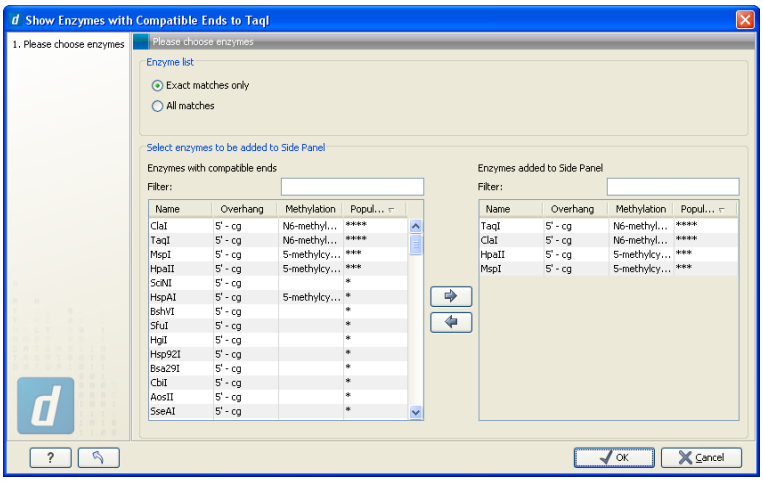

Figure 19.21: *Enzymes with compatible ends.*

At the top you can choose whether the enzymes considered should have an exact match or not. Since a number of restriction enzymes have ambiguous cut patterns, there will be variations in the resulting overhangs. Choosing **All matches**, you cannot be 100% sure that the overhang will match, and you will need to inspect the sequence further afterwards.

We advice trying **Exact match** first, and use **All matches** as an alternative if a satisfactory result cannot be achieved.

At the bottom of the dialog, the list of enzymes producing compatible overhangs is shown. Use the arrows to add enzymes which will be displayed on the sequence which you press **Finish**.

When you have added the relevant enzymes, click **Finish**, and the enzymes will be added to the Side Panel and their cut sites displayed on the sequence.

19.2.2 Restriction site analysis from the Toolbox

Besides the dynamic restriction sites, you can do a more elaborate restriction map analysis with more output format using the Toolbox:

Toolbox | Cloning and Restriction Sites ( ) | Restriction Site Analysis ( )

This will display the dialog shown in figure 19.22.

If a sequence was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this sequence is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

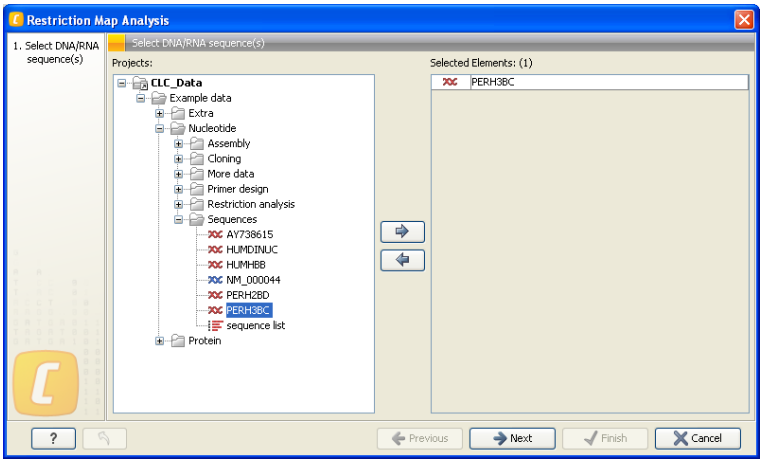

Figure 19.22: *Choosing sequence PERH3BC for restriction map analysis.*

Selecting, sorting and filtering enzymes

Clicking **Next** lets you define which enzymes to use as basis for finding restriction sites on the sequence. At the top, you can choose to **Use existing enzyme list**. Clicking this option lets you select an enzyme list which is stored in the **Navigation Area**. See section 19.4 for more about creating and modifying enzyme lists.

Below there are two panels:

- To the **left**, you see all the enzymes that are in the list select above. If you have not chosen to use an existing enzyme list, this panel shows all the enzymes available [3].
- To the **right**, there is a list of the enzymes that will be used.

Select enzymes in the left side panel and add them to the right panel by double-clicking or clicking the **Add** button (➡). If you e.g. wish to use EcoRV and BamHI, select these two enzymes and add them to the right side panel.

If you wish to use all the enzymes in the list:

Click in the panel to the left | press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac) | Add (➡)

The enzymes can be sorted by clicking the column headings, i.e. Name, Overhang, Methylation or Popularity. This is particularly useful if you wish to use enzymes which produce e.g. a 3' overhang. In this case, you can sort the list by clicking the Overhang column heading, and all the enzymes producing 3' overhangs will be listed together for easy selection.

When looking for a specific enzyme, it is easier to use the Filter. If you wish to find e.g. HindIII sites, simply type HindIII into the filter, and the list of enzymes will shrink automatically to only include the HindIII enzyme. This can also be used to only show enzymes producing e.g. a 3' overhang as shown in figure 19.33.

If you need more detailed information and filtering of the enzymes, either place your mouse cursor on an enzyme for one second to display additional information (see figure 19.34), or use the view of enzyme lists (see 19.4).

[3] The *CLC Combined Workbench* comes with a standard set of enzymes based on http://www.rebase.org

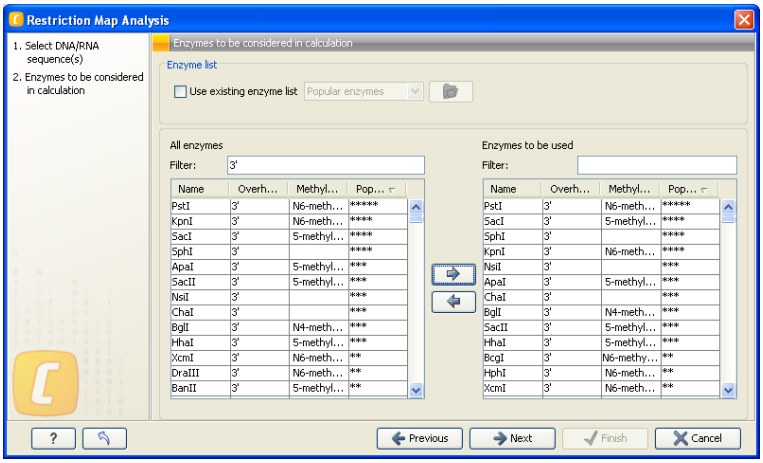

Figure 19.23: *Selecting enzymes.*

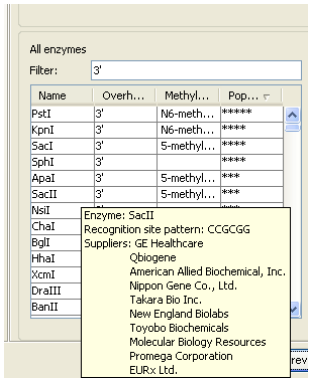

Figure 19.24: *Showing additional information about an enzyme like recognition sequence or a list of commercial vendors.*

Number of cut sites

Clicking **Next** confirms the list of enzymes which will be included in the analysis, and takes you to the dialog shown in figure 19.25.

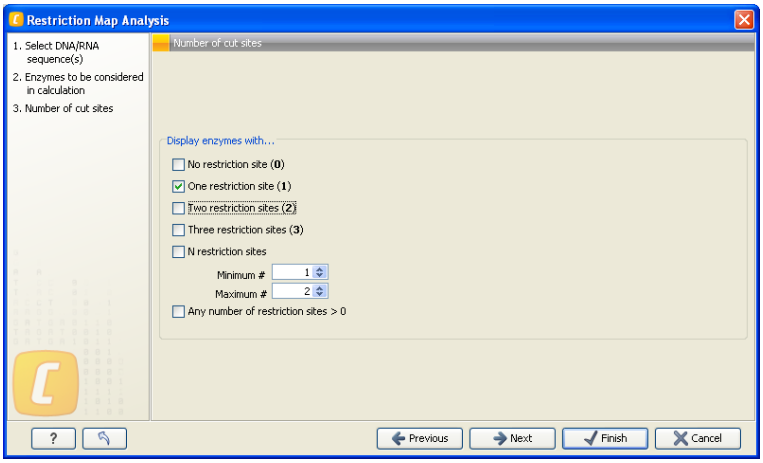

Figure 19.25: *Selecting number of cut sites.*

If you wish the output of the restriction map analysis only to include restriction enzymes which cut the sequence a specific number of times, use the checkboxes in this dialog:

- No restriction site (**0**)
- One restriction site (**1**)
- Two restriction sites (**2**)
- Three restriction site (**3**)
- N restriction sites
  - Minimum
  - Maximum
- Any number of restriction sites > 0

The default setting is to include the enzymes which cut the sequence one or two times.

You can use the checkboxes to perform very specific searches for restriction sites: e.g. if you wish to find enzymes which do not cut the sequence, or enzymes cutting exactly twice.

Output of restriction map analysis

Clicking next shows the dialog in figure 19.26.

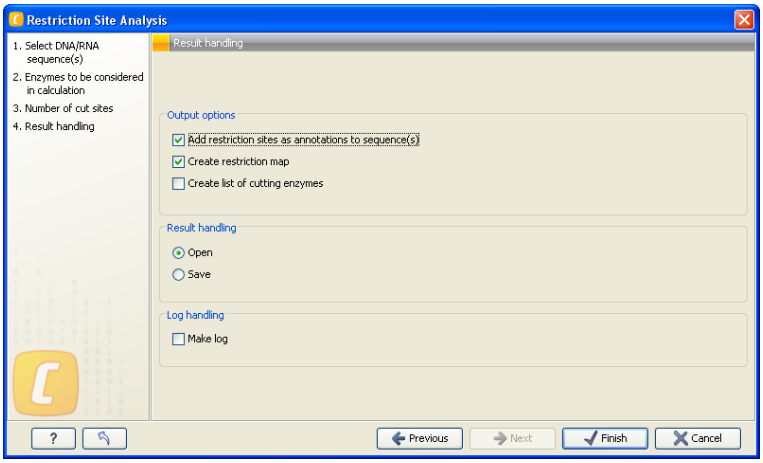

Figure 19.26: *Choosing to add restriction sites as annotations or creating a restriction map.*

This dialog lets you specify how the result of the restriction map analysis should be presented:

- **Add restriction sites as annotations to sequence(s)**. This option makes it possible to see the restriction sites on the sequence (see figure 19.27) and save the annotations for later use.
- **Create restriction map**. When a restriction map is created, it can be shown in three different ways:
  - As a **table of restriction sites** as shown in figure 19.28. If more than one sequence were selected, the table will include the restriction sites of all the sequences. This makes it easy to compare the result of the restriction map analysis for two sequences.

- As a **table of fragments** which shows the sequence fragments that would be the result of cutting the sequence with the selected enzymes (see figure19.29).
- As a **virtual gel** simulation which shows the fragments as bands on a gel (see figure 19.31).

  For more information about gel electrophoresis, see section 19.3.

The following sections will describe these output formats in more detail.

In order to complete the analysis click **Finish** (see section 9.1 for information about the Save and Open options).

Restriction sites as annotation on the sequence

If you chose to add the restriction sites as annotation to the sequence, the result will be similar to the sequence shown in figure 19.27. See section 10.3 for more information about viewing

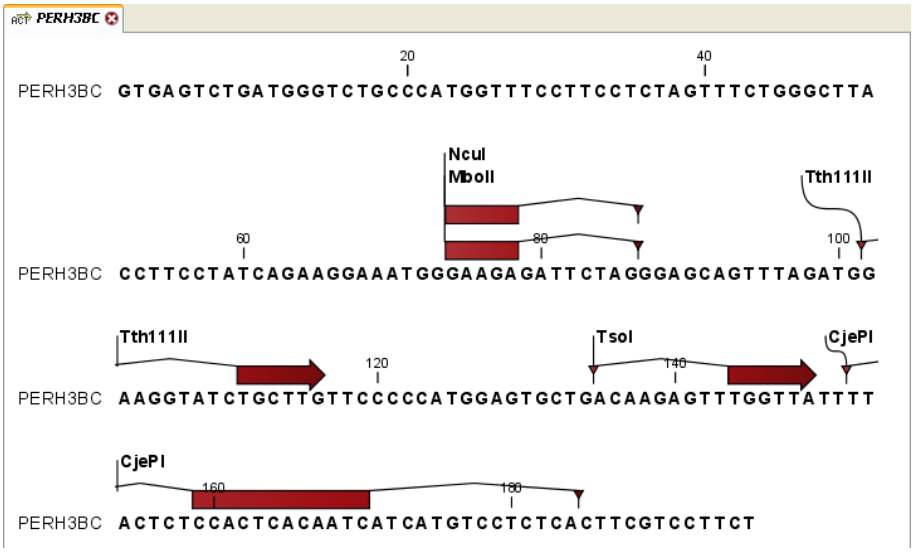

Figure 19.27: *The result of the restriction analysis shown as annotations.*

annotations.

Table of restriction sites

The restriction map can be shown as a table of restriction sites (see figure 19.28).

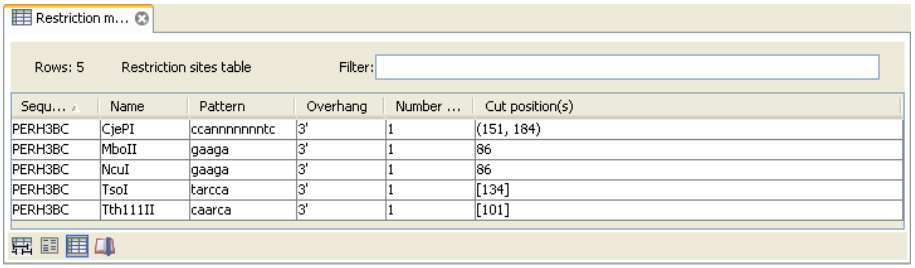

Figure 19.28: *The result of the restriction analysis shown as annotations.*

Each row in the table represents a restriction enzyme. The following information is available for each enzyme:

- **Sequence**. The name of the sequence which is relevant if you have performed restriction map analysis on more than one sequence.
- **Name**. The name of the enzyme.
- **Pattern**. The recognition sequence of the enzyme.
- **Overhang**. The overhang produced by cutting with the enzyme (3', 5' or Blunt).
- **Number of cut sites**.
- **Cut position(s)**. The position of each cut.
  - **,** If the enzyme cuts more than once, the positions are separated by commas.
  - **[]** If the enzyme's recognition sequence is on the negative strand, the cut position is put in brackets (as the enzyme TsoI in figure 19.28 whose cut position is [134]).
  - **()** Some enzymes cut the sequence twice for each recognition site, and in this case the two cut positions are surrounded by parentheses.

Table of restriction fragments

The restriction map can be shown as a table of fragments produced by cutting the sequence with the enzymes:

Click the Fragments button ( ) at the bottom of the view

The table is shown in see figure 19.29.

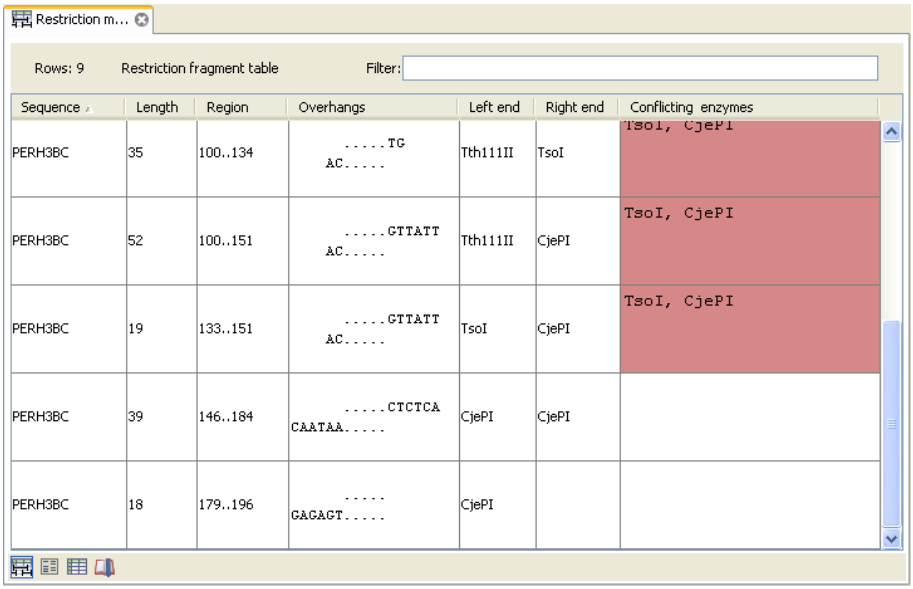

Figure 19.29: *The result of the restriction analysis shown as annotations.*

Each row in the table represents a fragment. If more than one enzyme cuts in the same region, or if an enzyme's recognition site is cut by another enzyme, there will be a fragment for each of the possible cut combinations [4]. The following information is available for each fragment.

[4] Furthermore, if this is the case, you will see the names of the other enzymes in the **Conflicting Enzymes** column

- **Sequence**. The name of the sequence which is relevant if you have performed restriction map analysis on more than one sequence.
- **Length**. The length of the fragment. If there are overhangs of the fragment, these are included in the length (both 3' and 5' overhangs).
- **Region**. The fragment's region on the original sequence.
- **Overhangs**. If there is an overhang, this is displayed with an abbreviated version of the fragment and its overhangs. The two rows of dots (.) represent the two strands of the fragment and the overhang is visualized on each side of the dots with the residue(s) that make up the overhang. If there are only the two rows of dots, it means that there is no overhang.
- **Left end**. The enzyme that cuts the fragment to the left (5' end).
- **Right end**. The enzyme that cuts the fragment to the right (3' end).
- **Conflicting enzymes**. If more than one enzyme cuts at the same position, or if an enzyme's recognition site is cut by another enzyme, a fragment is displayed for each possible combination of cuts. At the same time, this column will display the enzymes that are in conflict. If there are conflicting enzymes, they will be colored red to alert the user. If the same experiment were performed in the lab, conflicting enzymes could lead to wrong results. For this reason, this functionality is useful to simulate digestions with complex combinations of restriction enzymes.

If views of both the fragment table and the sequence are open, clicking in the fragment table will select the corresponding region on the sequence.

Gel

The restriction map can also be shown as a gel. This is described in section 19.3.1.

19.3 Gel electrophoresis

CLC Combined Workbench enables the user to simulate the separation of nucleotide sequences on a gel. This feature is useful when e.g. designing an experiment which will allow the differentiation of a successful and an unsuccessful cloning experiment on the basis of a restriction map.

There are two main ways to simulate gel separation of nucleotide sequences:

- One or more sequences can be digested with restriction enzymes and the resulting fragments can be separated on a gel.
- A number of existing sequences can be separated on a gel.

There are several ways to apply these functionalities as described below.

19.3.1 Separate fragments of sequences on gel

This section explains how to simulate a gel electrophoresis of one or more sequences which are digested with restriction enzymes. There are two ways to do this:

- When performing the **Restriction Site Analysis** from the **Toolbox**, you can choose to create a restriction map which can be shown as a gel. This is explained in section 19.2.2.
- From all the graphical views of sequences, you can right-click the name of the sequence and choose: **Digest Sequence with Selected Enzymes and Run on Gel ( )**. The views where this option is available are listed below:
  - Circular view (see section 10.2).
  - Ordinary sequence view (see section 10.1).
  - Graphical view of sequence lists (see section 10.7).
  - Cloning editor (see section 19.1).
  - Primer designer (see section 17.3).

  Furthermore, you can also right-click an empty part of the view of the graphical view of sequence lists and the cloning editor and choose **Digest All Sequences with Selected Enzymes and Run on Gel**.
  Note! When using the right-click options, the sequence will be digested with the enzymes that are selected in the **Side Panel**. This is explained in section 10.1.2.

The view of the gel is explained in section 19.3.3

19.3.2 Separate sequences on gel

To separate sequences without restriction enzyme digestion, first create a sequence list of the sequences in question (see section 10.7). Then click the **Gel** button ( ) at the bottom of the view of the sequence list.

For more information about the view of the gel, see the next section.

19.3.3 Gel view

In figure 19.31 you can see a simulation of a gel with its **Side Panel** to the right. This view will be explained in this section.

Information on bands / fragments

You can get information about the individual bands by hovering the mouse cursor on the band of interest. This will display a tool tip with the following information:

- Fragment length
- Fragment region on the original sequence
- Enzymes cutting at the left and right ends, respectively

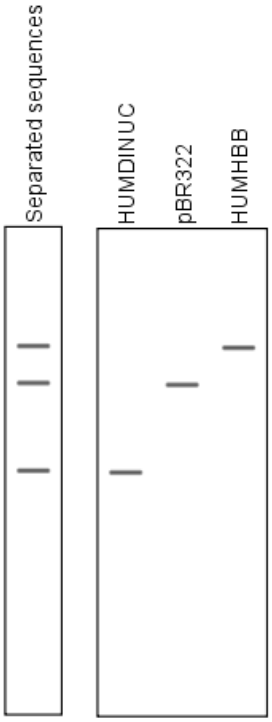

Figure 19.30: *A sequence list shown as a gel.*

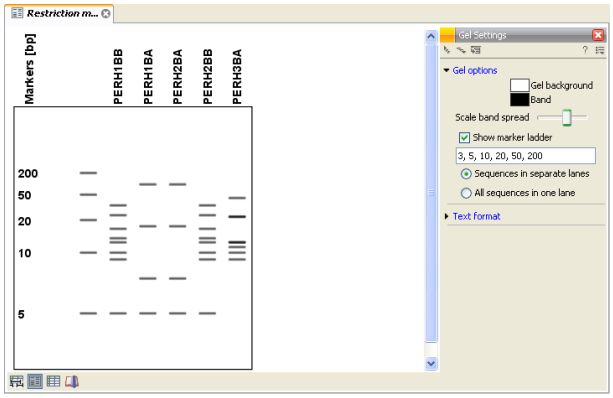

Figure 19.31: *Five lanes showing fragments of five sequences cut with restriction enzymes.*

For gels comparing whole sequences, you will see the sequence name and the length of the sequence.

Note! You have to be in **Selection** ( ) or **Pan** ( ) mode in order to get this information.

It can be useful to add markers to the gel which enables you to compare the sizes of the bands. This is done by clicking **Show marker ladder** in the **Side Panel**.

Markers can be entered into the text field, separated by commas.

Modifying the layout

The background of the lane and the colors of the bands can be changed in the **Side Panel**. Click the colored box to display a dialog for picking a color. The slider **Scale band spread** can be used

to adjust the effective time of separation on the gel, i.e. how much the bands will be spread over the lane. In a real electrophoresis experiment this property will be determined by several factors including time of separation, voltage and gel density.

You can also choose how many lanes should be displayed:

- **Sequences in separate lanes**. This simulates that a gel is run for each sequence.
- **All sequences in one lane**. This simulates that one gel is run for all sequences.

You can also modify the layout of the view by zooming in or out. Click **Zoom in** ( ) or **Zoom out** ( ) in the Toolbar and click the view.

Finally, you can modify the format of the text heading each lane in the **Text format** preferences in the **Side Panel**.

19.4 Restriction enzyme lists

CLC Combined Workbench includes all the restriction enzymes available in the **REBASE** database. However, when performing restriction site analyses, it is often an advantage to use a customized list of enzymes. In this case, the user can create special lists containing e.g. all enzymes available in the laboratory freezer, all enzymes used to create a given restriction map or all enzymes that are available form the preferred vendor.

In the example data (see section 1.6.2) under Nucleotide->Restriction analysis, there are two enzyme lists: one with the 50 most popular enzymes, and another with all enzymes that are included in the *CLC Combined Workbench*.

This section describes how you can create an enzyme list, and how you can modify it.

19.4.1 Create enzyme list

CLC Combined Workbench uses enzymes from the **REBASE** restriction enzyme database at http://rebase.neb.com.
To create an enzyme list of a subset of these enzymes:

right-click in the Navigation Area | **New** | **Enzyme list (** **)**

This opens the dialog shown in figure 19.32

At the top, you can choose to **Use existing enzyme list**. Clicking this option lets you select an enzyme list which is stored in the **Navigation Area**. See section 19.4 for more about creating and modifying enzyme lists.

Below there are two panels:

- To the **left**, you see all the enzymes that are in the list select above. If you have not chosen to use an existing enzyme list, this panel shows all the enzymes available [5].
- To the **right**, there is a list of the enzymes that will be used.

[5] The *CLC Combined Workbench* comes with a standard set of enzymes based on http://www.rebase.org

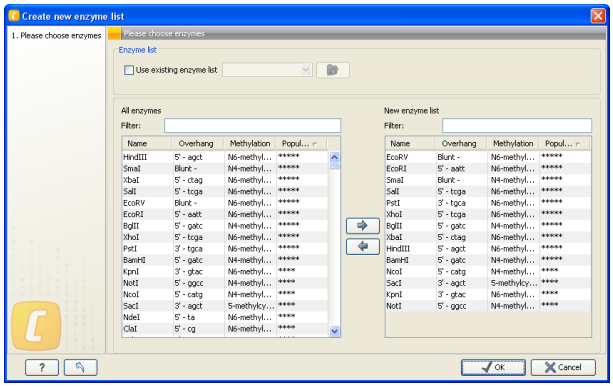

Figure 19.32: *Choosing enzymes for the new enzyme list.*

Select enzymes in the left side panel and add them to the right panel by double-clicking or clicking the **Add** button (➡). If you e.g. wish to use EcoRV and BamHI, select these two enzymes and add them to the right side panel.

If you wish to use all the enzymes in the list:

Click in the panel to the left | press Ctrl + A (⌘ + A on Mac) | Add (➡)

The enzymes can be sorted by clicking the column headings, i.e. Name, Overhang, Methylation or Popularity. This is particularly useful if you wish to use enzymes which produce e.g. a 3' overhang. In this case, you can sort the list by clicking the Overhang column heading, and all the enzymes producing 3' overhangs will be listed together for easy selection.

When looking for a specific enzyme, it is easier to use the Filter. If you wish to find e.g. HindIII sites, simply type HindIII into the filter, and the list of enzymes will shrink automatically to only include the HindIII enzyme. This can also be used to only show enzymes producing e.g. a 3' overhang as shown in figure 19.33.

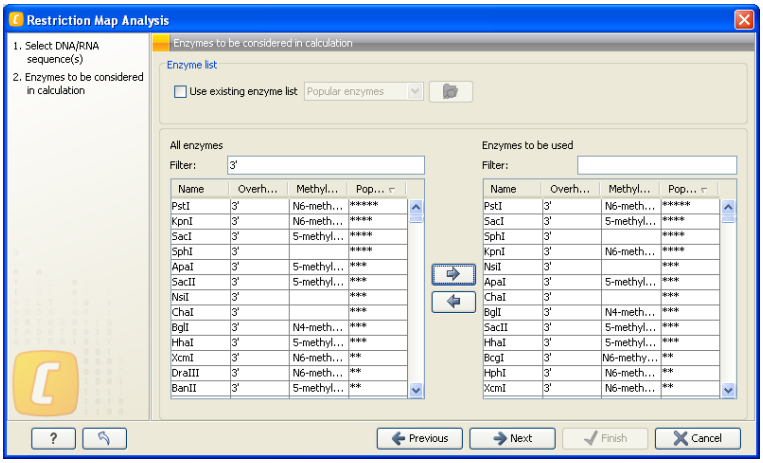

Figure 19.33: *Selecting enzymes.*

If you need more detailed information and filtering of the enzymes, either place your mouse cursor on an enzyme for one second to display additional information (see figure 19.34), or use the view of enzyme lists (see 19.4).

Click **Finish** to open the enzyme list.

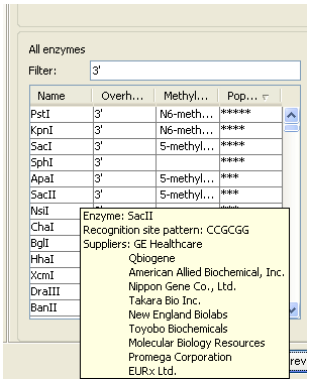

Figure 19.34: *Showing additional information about an enzyme like recognition sequence or a list of commercial vendors.*

19.4.2 View and modify enzyme list

An enzyme list is shown in figure 19.35. The list can be sorted by clicking the columns,

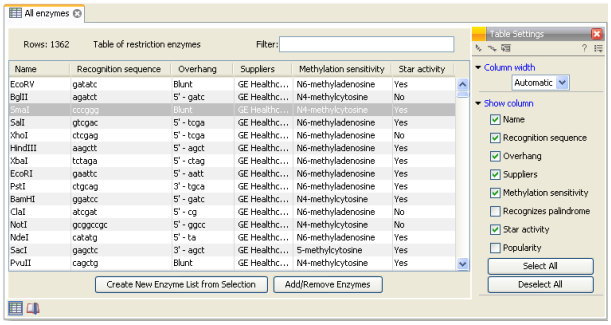

Figure 19.35: *An enzyme list.*

and you can use the filter at the top right corner to search for specific enzymes, recognition sequences etc.

If you wish to remove or add enzymes, click the **Add/Remove Enzymes** button at the bottom of the view. This will present the same dialog as shown in figure 19.32 with the enzyme list shown to the right.

If you wish to extract a subset of an enzyme list:

> **open the list** | **select the relevant enzymes** | **right-click** | **Create New Enzyme List from Selection** ( )

If you combined this method with the filter located at the top of the view, you can extract a very specific set of enzymes. E.g. if you wish to create a list of enzymes sold by a particular distributor, type the name of the distributor into the filter, and select and create a new enzyme list from the selection.

Chapter 20

Sequence alignment

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CLC Combined Workbench can align nucleotides and proteins using a *progressive alignment* algorithm (see section 20.6 or read the White paper on alignments in the **Science** section of http://www.clcbio.com).

This chapter describes how to use the program to align sequences. The chapter also describes alignment algorithms in more general terms.

20.1 Create an alignment

Alignments can be created from sequences, sequence lists (see section 10.7), existing alignments and from any combination of the three.

To create an alignment in *CLC Combined Workbench*:

select elements to align | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Alignments and Trees ( )** | **Create Alignment ( )**

or **select elements to align** | **right-click any selected sequence** | **Toolbox** | **Alignments and Trees ( )** | **Create Alignment ( )**

This opens the dialog shown in figure 20.1.

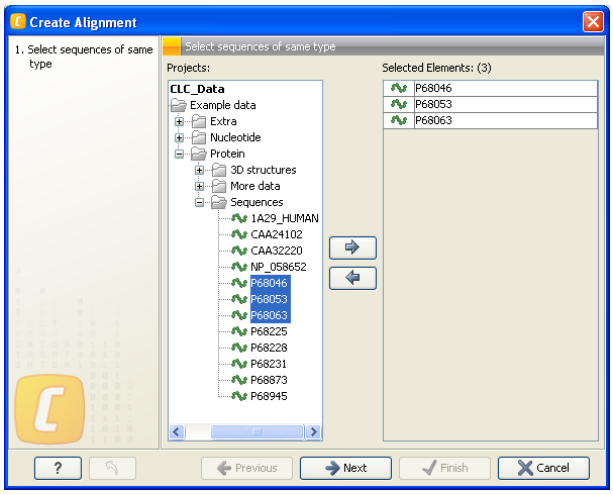


Figure 20.1: *Creating an alignment.*

If you have selected some elements before choosing the Toolbox action, they are now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences, sequence lists or alignments from the selected elements. Click **Next** to adjust alignment algorithm parameters. Clicking **Next** opens the dialog shown in figure 20.2.

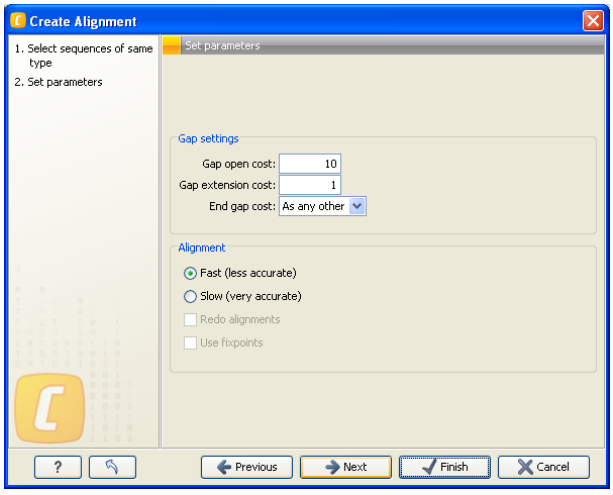


Figure 20.2: *Adjusting alignment algorithm parameters.*

20.1.1 Gap costs

The alignment algorithm has three parameters concerning gap costs: Gap open cost, Gap extension cost and End gap cost. The precision of these parameters is to one place of decimal.

- **Gap open cost**. The price for introducing gaps in an alignment.
- **Gap extension cost**. The price for every extension past the initial gap.

If you expect a lot of small gaps in your alignment, the Gap open cost should equal the Gap extension cost. On the other hand, if you expect few but large gaps, the Gap open cost should be set significantly higher than the Gap extension cost.

However, for most alignments it is a good idea to make the Gap open cost quite a bit higher than the Gap extension cost. The default values are 10.0 and 1.0 for the two parameters, respectively.

- **End gap cost**. The price of gaps at the beginning or the end of the alignment. One of the advantages of the *CLC Combined Workbench* alignment method is that it provides flexibility in the treatment of gaps at the ends of the sequences. There are three possibilities:
  - **Free end gaps**. Any number of gaps can be inserted in the ends of the sequences without any cost.
  - **Cheap end gaps**. All end gaps are treated as gap extensions and any gaps past 10 are free.
  - **End gaps as any other**. Gaps at the ends of sequences are treated like gaps in any other place in the sequences.

When aligning a long sequence with a short partial sequence, it is ideal to use free end gaps, since this will be the best approximation to the situation. The many gaps inserted at the ends are not due to evolutionary events, but rather to partial data.

Many homologous proteins have quite different ends, often with large insertions or deletions. This confuses alignment algorithms, but using the **Cheap end gaps** option, large gaps will generally be tolerated at the sequence ends, improving the overall alignment. This is the default setting of the algorithm.

Finally, treating end gaps like any other gaps is the best option when you know that there are no biologically distinct effects at the ends of the sequences.

Figures 20.3 and 20.4 illustrate the differences between the different gap scores at the sequence ends.

20.1.2 Fast or accurate alignment algorithm

CLC Combined Workbench has two algorithms for calculating alignments:

- **Fast (less accurate).** This allows for use of an optimized alignment algorithm which is very fast. The fast option is particularly useful for datasets with very long sequences.
- **Slow (very accurate).** This is the recommended choice unless you find the processing time too long.

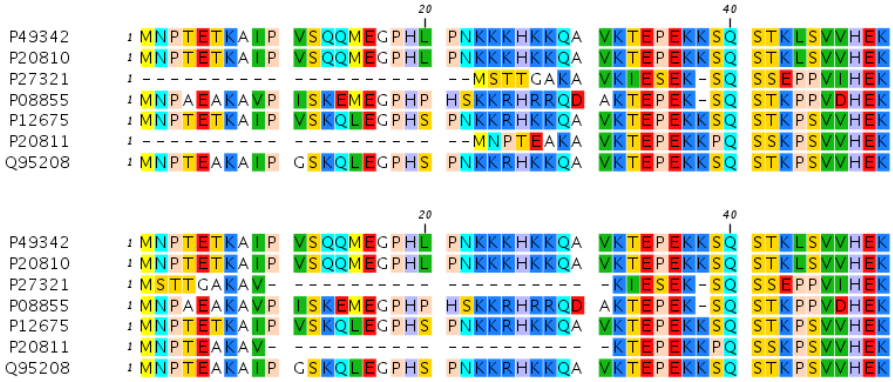


Figure 20.3: *The first 50 positions of two different alignments of seven calpastatin sequences. The top alignment is made with cheap end gaps, while the bottom alignment is made with end gaps having the same price as any other gaps. In this case it seems that the latter scoring scheme gives the best result.*

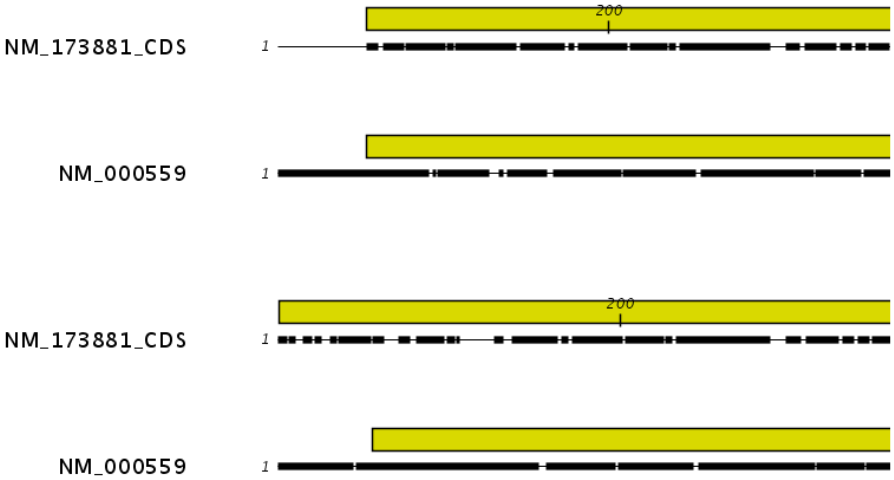


Figure 20.4: *The alignment of the coding sequence of bovine myoglobin with the full mRNA of human gamma globin. The top alignment is made with free end gaps, while the bottom alignment is made with end gaps treated as any other. The yellow annotation is the coding sequence in both sequences. It is evident that free end gaps are ideal in this situation as the start codons are aligned correctly in the top alignment. Treating end gaps as any other gaps in the case of aligning distant homologs where one sequence is partial leads to a spreading out of the short sequence as in the bottom alignment.*

For a comprehensive explanation of the alignment algorithms see section 20.6.

20.1.3 Aligning alignments

If you have selected an existing alignment in the first step (20.1), you have to decide how this alignment should be treated.

- **Redo alignment.** The original alignment will be realigned if this checkbox is checked. Otherwise, the original alignment is kept in its original form except for possible extra equally sized gaps in all sequences of the original alignment. This is visualized in figure 20.5.

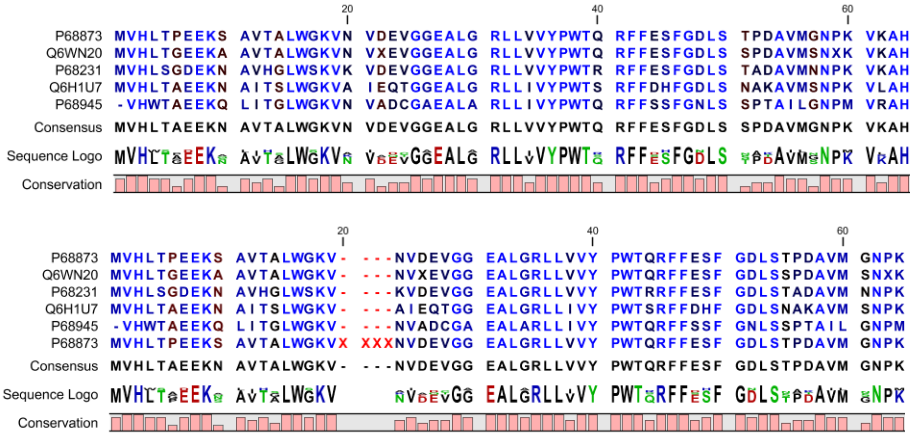


Figure 20.5: *The top figures shows the original alignment. In the bottom panel a single sequence with four inserted X's are aligned to the original alignment. This introduces gaps in all sequences of the original alignment. All other positions in the original alignment are fixed.*

This feature is useful if you wish to add extra sequences to an existing alignment, in which case you just select the alignment and the extra sequences and choose not to redo the alignment.

It is also useful if you have created an alignment where the gaps are not placed correctly. In this case, you can realign the alignment with different gap cost parameters.

20.1.4 Fixpoints

With fixpoints, you can get full control over the alignment algorithm. The fixpoints are points on the sequences that are forced to align to each other.

Fixpoints are added to sequences or alignments before clicking "Create alignment". To add a fixpoint, open the sequence or alignment and:

> **Select the region you want to use as a fixpoint | right-click the selection | Set alignment fixpoint here**

This will add an annotation labeled "Fixpoint" to the sequence (see figure 20.6). Use this procedure to add fixpoints to the other sequence(s) that should be forced to align to each other.

When you click "Create alignment" and go to **Step 2**, check **Use fixpoints** in order to force the alignment algorithm to align the fixpoints in the selected sequences to each other.

In figure 20.7 the result of an alignment using fixpoints is illustrated.

You can add multiple fixpoints, e.g. adding two fixpoints to the sequences that are aligned will force their first fixpoints to be aligned to each other, and their second fixpoints will also be aligned to each other.

Advanced use of fixpoints

Fixpoints with the same names will be aligned to each other, which gives the opportunity for great control over the alignment process. It is only necessary to change any fixpoint names in very special cases.

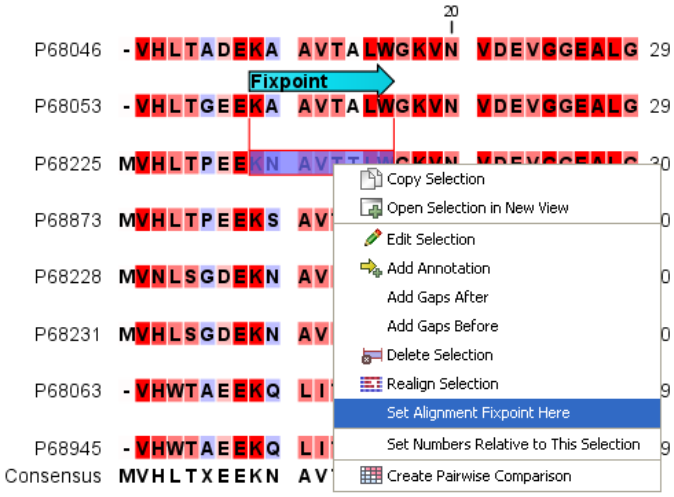


Figure 20.6: *Adding a fixpoint to a sequence in an existing alignment. At the top you can see a fixpoint that has already been added.*

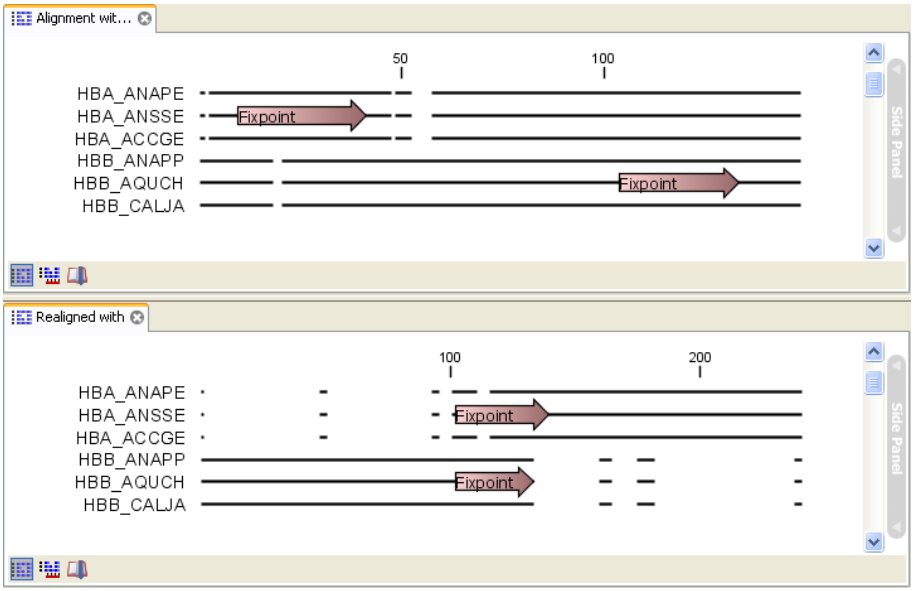


Figure 20.7: *Realigning using fixpoints. In the top view, fixpoints have been added to two of the sequences. In the view below, the alignment has been realigned using the fixpoints. The three top sequences are very similar, and therefore they follow the one sequence (number two from the top) that has a fixpoint.*

One example would be three sequences A, B and C where sequences A and B has one copy of a domain while sequence C has two copies of the domain. You can now force sequence A to align to the first copy and sequence B to align to the second copy of the domains in sequence C. This is done by inserting fixpoints in sequence C for each domain, and naming them ’fp1’ and ’fp2’ (for example). Now, you can insert a fixpoint in each of sequences A and B, naming them ’fp1’ and ’fp2’, respectively. Now, when aligning the three sequences using fixpoints, sequence A will align to the first copy of the domain in sequence C, while sequence B would align to the second copy of the domain in sequence C.

You can name fixpoints by:

right-click the Fixpoint annotation | Edit Annotation ( ) | type the name in the 'Name' field

20.2 View alignments

Since an alignment is a display of several sequences arranged in rows, the basic options for viewing alignments are the same as for viewing sequences. Therefore we refer to section 10.1 for an explanation of these basic options.

However, there are a number of alignment-specific view options in the **Alignment info** and the **Nucleotide info** in the **Side Panel** to the right of the view. Below is more information on these view options.

Under **Translation** in the **Nucleotide info**, there is an extra checkbox: **Relative to top sequence**. Checking this box will make the reading frames for the translation align with the top sequence so that you can compare the effect of nucleotide differences on the protein level.

The options in the **Alignment info** relate to each column in the alignment:

- **Consensus.** Shows a consensus sequence at the bottom of the alignment. The consensus sequence is based on every single position in the alignment and reflects an artificial sequence which resembles the sequence information of the alignment, but only as one single sequence. If all sequences of the alignment is 100% identical the consensus sequence will be identical to all sequences found in the alignment. If the sequences of the alignment differ the consensus sequence will reflect the most common sequences in the alignment. Parameters for adjusting the consensus sequences are described below.
  - **Limit.** This option determines how conserved the sequences must be in order to agree on a consensus. Here you can also choose **IUPAC** which will display the ambiguity code when there are differences between the sequences. E.g. an alignment with **A** and a **G** at the same position will display an **R** in the consensus line if the **IUPAC** option is selected. (The IUPAC codes can be found in section F and E.)
  - **No gaps.** Checking this option will not show gaps in the consensus.
  - **Ambiguous symbol.** Select how ambiguities should be displayed in the consensus line (as **N**, **?**, *****, **.** or **-**). This option has now effect if **IUPAC** is selected in the **Limit** list above.

  The **Consensus Sequence** can be opened in a new view, simply by right-clicking the **Consensus Sequence** and click **Open Consensus in New View**.
- **Conservation.** Displays the level of conservation at each position in the alignment. The conservation shows the conservation of all sequence positions. The height of the bar, or the gradient of the color reflect how conserved that particular position is in the alignment. If one position is 100% conserved the bar will be shown in full height, and it is colored in the color specified at the right side of the gradient slider.
  - **Foreground color.** Colors the letters using a gradient, where the right side color is used for highly conserved positions and the left side color is used for positions that are less conserved.
  - **Background color.** Sets a background color of the residues using a gradient in the same way as described above.

  - **Graph.** Displays the conservation level as a graph at the bottom of the alignment. The bar (default view) show the conservation of all sequence positions. The height of the graph reflects how conserved that particular position is in the alignment. If one position is 100% conserved the graph will be shown in full height.
    * **Height.** Specifies the height of the graph.
    * **Type.** The type of the graph.
      · **Line plot.** Displays the graph as a line plot.
      · **Bar plot.** Displays the graph as a bar plot.
      · **Colors.** Displays the graph as a color bar using a gradient like the foreground and background colors.
    * **Color box.** Specifies the color of the graph for line and bar plots, and specifies a gradient for colors.

- **Gap fraction.** Which fraction of the sequences in the alignment that have gaps. The gap fraction is only relevant if there are gaps in the alignment.
  - **Foreground color.** Colors the letter using a gradient, where the left side color is used if there are relatively few gaps, and the right side color is used if there are relatively many gaps.
  - **Background color.** Sets a background color of the residues using a gradient in the same way as described above.
  - **Graph.** Displays the gap fraction as a graph at the bottom of the alignment.
    * **Height.** Specifies the height of the graph.
    * **Type.** The type of the graph.
      · **Line plot.** Displays the graph as a line plot.
      · **Bar plot.** Displays the graph as a line plot.
      · **Colors.** Displays the graph as a color bar using a gradient like the foreground and background colors.
    * **Color box.** Specifies the color of the graph for line and bar plots, and specifies a gradient for colors.

- **Color different residues.** Indicates differences in aligned residues.
  - **Foreground color.** Colors the letter.
  - **Background color.** Sets a background color of the residues.

- **Sequence logo.** A sequence logo displays the frequencies of residues at each position in an alignment. This is presented as the relative heights of letters, along with the degree of sequence conservation as the total height of a stack of letters, measured in bits of information. The vertical scale is in bits, with a maximum of 2 bits for nucleotides and approximately 4.32 bits for amino acid residues. See section 20.2.1 for more details.
  - **Foreground color.** Color the residues using a gradient according to the information content of the alignment column. Low values indicate columns with high variability whereas high values indicate columns with similar residues.
  - **Background color.** Sets a background color of the residues using a gradient in the same way as described above.

- **Logo.** Displays sequence logo at the bottom of the alignment.
  - **Height.** Specifies the height of the sequence logo graph.
  - **Color.** The sequence logo can be displayed in black or Rasmol colors. For protein alignments, a polarity color scheme is also available, where hydrophobic residues are shown in black color, hydrophilic residues as green, acidic residues as red and basic residues as blue.

20.2.1 Bioinformatics explained: Sequence logo

In the search for homologous sequences, researchers are often interested in conserved sites/residues or positions in a sequence which tend to differ a lot. Most researches use alignments (see Bioinformatics explained*: multiple alignments*) for visualization of homology on a given set of either DNA or protein sequences. In proteins, active sites in a given protein family are often highly conserved. Thus, in an alignment these positions (which are not necessarily located in proximity) are fully or nearly fully conserved. On the other hand, antigen binding sites in the F_{ab} unit of immunoglobulins tend to differ quite a lot, whereas the rest of the protein remains relatively unchanged.

In DNA, promoter sites or other DNA binding sites are highly conserved (see figure 20.8). This is also the case for repressor sites as seen for the Cro repressor of bacteriophage λ.

When aligning such sequences, regardless of whether they are highly variable or highly conserved at specific sites, it is very difficult to generate a consensus sequence which covers the actual variability of a given position. In order to better understand the information content or significance of certain positions, a sequence logo can be used. The sequence logo displays the information content of all positions in an alignment as residues or nucleotides stacked on top of each other (see figure 20.8). The sequence logo provides a far more detailed view of the entire alignment than a simple consensus sequence. Sequence logos can aid to identify protein binding sites on DNA sequences and can also aid to identify conserved residues in aligned domains of protein sequences and a wide range of other applications.

Each position of the alignment and consequently the sequence logo shows the sequence information in a computed score based on Shannon entropy [Schneider and Stephens, 1990]. The height of the individual letters represent the sequence information content in that particular position of the alignment.

A sequence logo is a much better visualization tool than a simple consensus sequence. An example hereof is an alignment where in one position a particular residue is found in 70% of the sequences. If a consensus sequence is used, it typically only displays the single residue with 70% coverage. In figure 20.8 an un-gapped alignment of 11 *E. coli* start codons including flanking regions are shown. In this example, a consensus sequence would only display ATG as the start codon in position 1, but when looking at the sequence logo it is seen that a GTG is also allowed as a start codon.

Calculation of sequence logos

A comprehensive walk-through of the calculation of the information content in sequence logos is beyond the scope of this document but can be found in the original paper by Schneider and Stephens, 1990. Nevertheless, the conservation of every position is defined as R_{seq} which is the difference between the maximal entropy (S_{max}) and the observed entropy for the residue

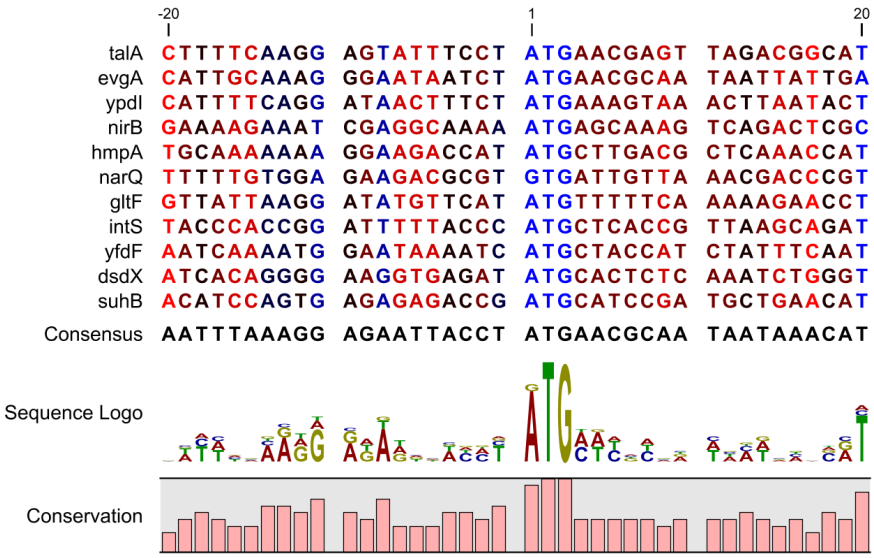


Figure 20.8: *Ungapped sequence alignment of eleven* E. coli *sequences defining a start codon. The start codons start at position 1. Below the alignment is shown the corresponding sequence logo. As seen, a GTG start codon and the usual ATG start codons are present in the alignment. This can also be visualized in the logo at position 1.*

distribution (S_{obs}),

$$R_{seq} = S_{max} - S_{obs} = \log_2 N - \left(- \sum_{n=1}^{N} p_n \log_2 p_n \right)$$

p_n is the observed frequency of a amino acid residue or nucleotide of symbol n at a particular position and N is the number of distinct symbols for the sequence alphabet, either 20 for proteins or four for DNA/RNA. This means that the maximal sequence information content per position is $\log_2 4 = 2\ bits$ for DNA/RNA and $\log_2 20 \approx 4.32\ bits$ for proteins.

The original implementation by Schneider does not handle sequence gaps.

We have slightly modified the algorithm so an estimated logo is presented in areas with sequence gaps.

If amino acid residues or nucleotides of one sequence are found in an area containing gaps, we have chosen to show the particular residue as the fraction of the sequences. Example; if one position in the alignment contain 9 gaps and only one alanine (A) the A represented in the logo has a hight of 0.1.

Other useful resources

The website of Tom Schneider
http://www-lmmb.ncifcrf.gov/~toms/

WebLogo
http://weblogo.berkeley.edu/

[Crooks et al., 2004]

20.3 Edit alignments

20.3.1 Move residues and gaps

The placement of gaps in the alignment can be changed by modifying the parameters when creating the alignment (see section 20.1). However, gaps and residues can also be moved after the alignment is created:

select one or more gaps or residues in the alignment | **drag the selection to move**

This can be done both for single sequences, but also for multiple sequences by making a selection covering more than one sequence. When you have made the selection, the mouse pointer turns into a horizontal arrow indicating that the selection can be moved (see figure 20.9).

Note! Residues can only be moved when they are next to a gap.

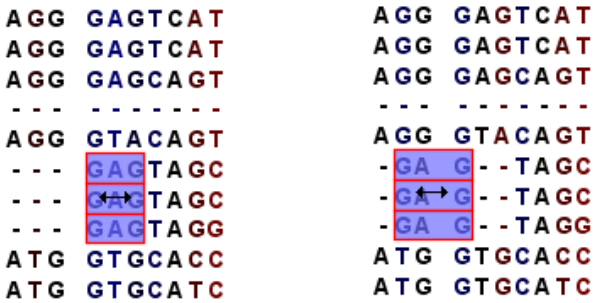


Figure 20.9: *Moving a part of an alignment. Notice the change of mouse pointer to a horizontal arrow.*

20.3.2 Insert gaps

The placement of gaps in the alignment can be changed by modifying the parameters when creating the alignment. However, gaps can also be added manually after the alignment is created.

To insert extra gaps:

select a part of the alignment | **right-click the selection** | **Add gaps before/after**

If you have made a selection covering e.g. five residues, a gap of five will be inserted. In this way you can easily control the number of gaps to insert. Gaps will be inserted in the sequences that you selected. If you make a selection in two sequences in an alignment, gaps will be inserted into these two sequences. This means that these two sequences will be displaced compared to the other sequences in the alignment.

20.3.3 Delete residues and gaps

Residues or gaps can be deleted for individual sequences or for the whole alignment. For individual sequences:

select the part of the sequence you want to delete | **right-click the selection** | **Edit Selection (** **)** | **Delete the text in the dialog** | **Replace**

The selection shown in the dialog will be replaced by the text you enter. If you delete the text, the selection will be replaced by an empty text, i.e. deleted.

To delete entire columns:

> **select the part of the alignment you want to delete** | **right-click the selection** | **Delete columns**

The selection may cover one or more sequences, but the **Delete columns** function will always apply to the entire alignment.

20.3.4 Copy annotations to other sequences

Annotations on one sequence can be transferred to other sequences in the alignment:

> **right-click the annotation** | **Copy Annotation to other Sequences**

This will display a dialog listing all the sequences in the alignment. Next to each sequence is a checkbox which is used for selecting which sequences, the annotation should be copied to. Click **Copy** to copy the annotation.

20.3.5 Move sequences up and down

Sequences can be moved up and down in the alignment:

> **drag the name of the sequence up or down**

When you move the mouse pointer over the label, the pointer will turn into a vertical arrow indicating that the sequence can be moved.

The sequences can also be sorted automatically to let you save time moving the sequences around. To sort the sequences alphabetically:

> **Right-click the name of a sequence** | **Sort Sequences Alphabetically**

If you change the Sequence name (in the **Sequence Layout** view preferences), you will have to ask the program to sort the sequences again.

The sequences can also be sorted by similarity, grouping similar sequences together:

> **Right-click the name of a sequence** | **Sort Sequences by Similarity**

20.3.6 Delete, rename and add sequences

Sequences can be removed from the alignment by right-clicking the label of a sequence:

> **right-click label** | **Delete Sequence**

This can be undone by clicking **Undo** ( ) in the Toolbar.

A sequence can also be renamed:

> **right-click label** | **Rename Sequence**

This will show a dialog, letting you rename the sequence. This will not affect the sequence that the alignment is based on.

Extra sequences can be added to the alignment by creating a new alignment where you select the current alignment and the extra sequences (see section 20.1).

The same procedure can be used for joining two alignments.

20.3.7 Realign selection

If you have created an alignment, it is possible to realign a part of it, leaving the rest of the alignment unchanged:

select a part of the alignment to realign | **right-click the selection** | **Realign selection**

This will open **Step 2** in the "Create alignment" dialog, allowing you to set the parameters for the realignment (see section 20.1).

It is possible for an alignment to become shorter or longer as a result of the realignment of a region. This is because gaps may have to be inserted in, or deleted from, the sequences not selected for realignment. This will only occur for entire columns of gaps in these sequences, ensuring that their relative alignment is unchanged.

Realigning a selection is a very powerful tool for editing alignments in several situations:

- **Removing changes.** If you change the alignment in a specific region by hand, you may end up being unhappy with the result. In this case you may of course undo your edits, but another option is to select the region and realign it.
- **Adjusting the number of gaps.** If you have a region in an alignment which has too many gaps in your opinion, you can select the region and realign it. By choosing a relatively high gap cost you will be able to reduce the number of gaps.
- **Combine with fixpoints.** If you have an alignment where two residues are not aligned, but you know that they should have been. You can now set an alignment fixpoint on each of the two residues, select the region and realign it using the fixpoints. Now, the two residues are aligned with each other and everything in the selected region around them is adjusted to accommodate this change.

20.4 Join alignments

CLC Combined Workbench can join several alignments into one. This feature can for example be used to construct "supergenes" for phylogenetic inference by joining alignments of several disjoint genes into one spliced alignment. Note, that when alignments are joined, all their annotations are carried over to the new spliced alignment.

Alignments can be joined by:

select alignments to join | **Toolbox in the Menu Bar** | **Alignments and Trees ( )** | **Join Alignments ( )**

or **select alignments to join** | **right-click either selected alignment** | **Toolbox** | **Alignments and Trees ( )** | **Join Alignments ( )**

This opens the dialog shown in figure 20.10.

If you have selected some alignments before choosing the Toolbox action, they are now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove alignments from the selected elements. Click **Next** opens the dialog shown in figure 20.11.

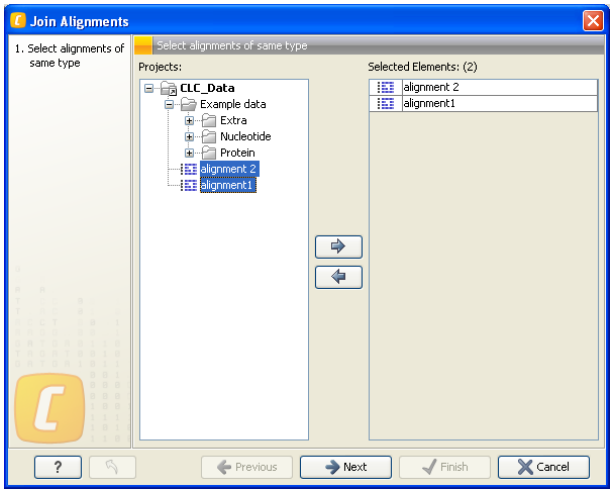


Figure 20.10: *Selecting two alignments to be joined.*

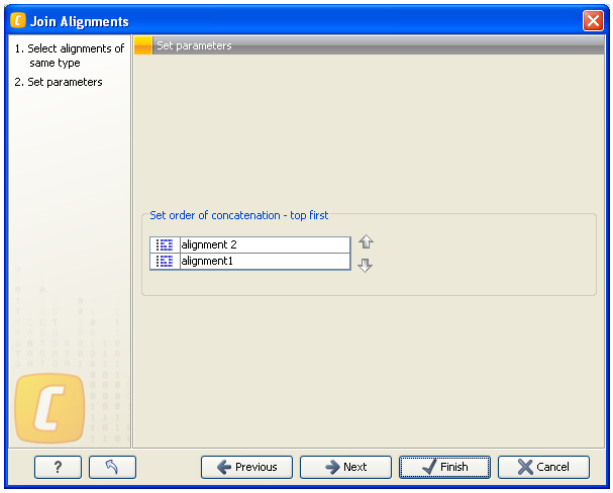


Figure 20.11: *Selecting order of concatenation.*

To adjust the order of concatenation, click the name of one of the alignments, and move it up or down using the arrow buttons.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**. The result is seen in figure 20.12.

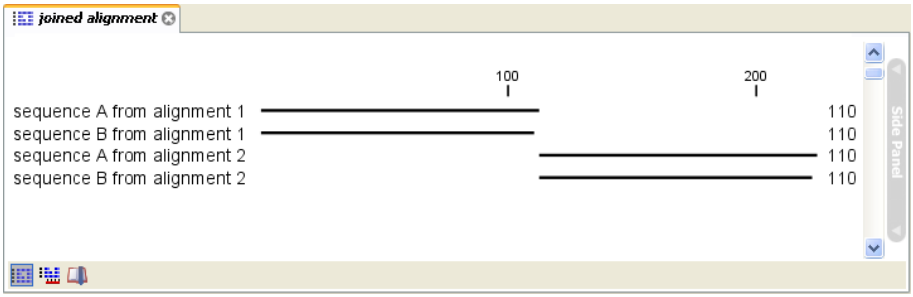


Figure 20.12: *The joining of the alignments result in one alignment containing rows of sequences corresponding to the number of uniquely named sequences in the joined alignments.*

20.4.1 How alignments are joined

Alignments are joined by considering the sequence names in the individual alignments. If two sequences from different alignments have identical names, they are considered to have the same origin and are thus joined. Consider the joining of alignments A and B. If a sequence named "in-A-and-B" is found in both A and B, the spliced alignment will contain a sequence named "in-A-and-B" which represents the characters from A and B joined in direct extension of each other. If a sequence with the name "in-A-not-B" is found in A but not in B, the spliced alignment will contain a sequence named "in-A-not-B". The first part of this sequence will contain the characters from A, but since no sequence information is available from B, a number of gap characters will be added to the end of the sequence corresponding to the number of residues in B. Note, that the function does not require that the individual alignments contain an equal number of sequences.

20.5 Pairwise comparison

For a given set of aligned sequences (see chapter 20) it is possible make a pairwise comparison in which each pair of sequences are compared to each other. This provides an overview of the diversity among the sequences in the alignment.

In *CLC Combined Workbench* this is done by creating a comparison table:

Toolbox in the Menu Bar | **Alignments and Trees** ( ) | **Pairwise Comparison** ( )

or **right-click alignment in Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **Alignments and Trees** ( ) | **Pairwise Comparison** ( )

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 20.13:

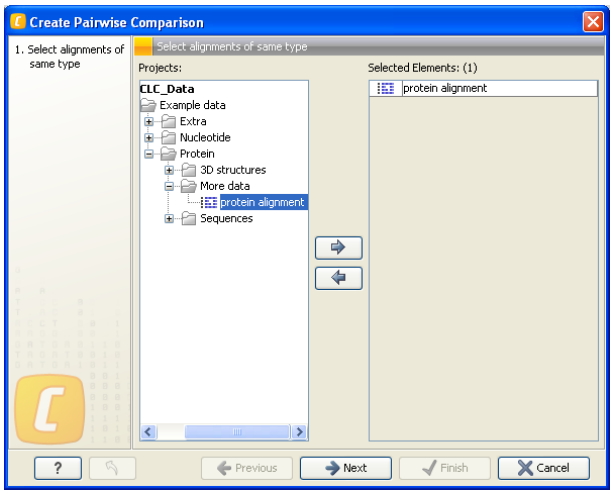


Figure 20.13: *Creating a pairwise comparison table.*

If an alignment was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this alignment is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove elements from the **Navigation Area**. Click **Next** to adjust parameters.

20.5.1 Pairwise comparison on alignment selection

A pairwise comparison can also be performed for a selected part of an alignment:

right-click on an alignment selection | Pairwise Comparison ( )

This leads directly to the dialog described in the next section.

20.5.2 Pairwise comparison parameters

There are four kinds of comparison that can be made between the sequences in the alignment, as shown in figure 20.14.

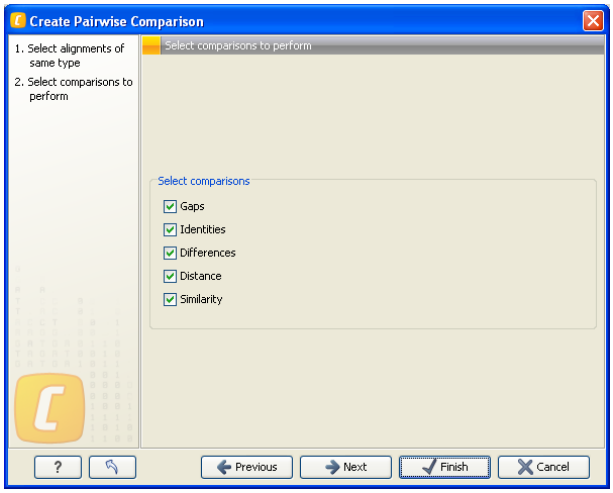


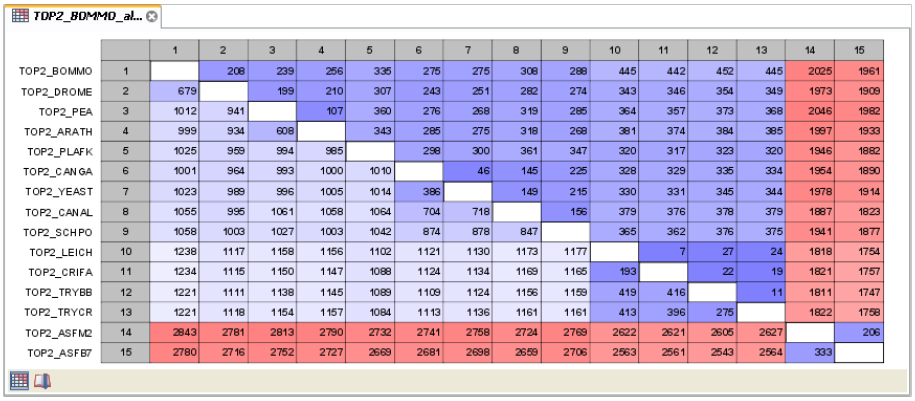
Figure 20.14: *Adjusting parameters for pairwise comparison.*

- **Gaps** Calculates the number of alignment positions where one sequence has a gap and the other does not.
- **Identities** Calculates the percentage of identical alignment positions to overlapping alignment positions between the two sequences.
- **Differences** Calculates the number of alignment positions where one sequence is different from the other. This includes gap differences as in the Gaps comparison.
- **Distance** Calculates the Jukes-Cantor distance between the two sequences. This number is given as the Jukes-Cantor correction of the proportion between identical and overlapping alignment positions between the two sequences.
- **Similarity** Calculates the percentage of similar residues in alignment positions to overlapping alignment positions between the two sequences.

Click **Next** if you wish to adjust how to handle the results (see section 9.1). If not, click **Finish**.

20.5.3 The pairwise comparison table

The table shows the results of selected comparisons (see an example in figure 20.15). Since comparisons are often symmetric, the table can show the results of two comparisons at the same time, one in the upper-right and one in the lower-left triangle.



		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
TOP2_BOMMO	1		208	239	256	335	275	275	308	288	445	442	452	445	2025	1961
TOP2_DROME	2	679		199	210	307	243	251	282	274	343	346	354	349	1973	1909
TOP2_PEA	3	1012	941		107	360	276	268	319	285	364	357	373	368	2046	1982
TOP2_ARATH	4	999	934	608		343	285	275	318	268	381	374	384	385	1997	1933
TOP2_PLAFK	5	1025	959	994	985		298	300	361	347	320	317	323	320	1946	1882
TOP2_CANGA	6	1001	964	993	1000	1010		46	145	225	328	329	335	334	1954	1890
TOP2_YEAST	7	1023	989	996	1005	1014	386		149	215	330	331	345	344	1978	1914
TOP2_CANAL	8	1055	995	1061	1058	1064	704	718		156	379	376	378	379	1887	1823
TOP2_SCHPO	9	1058	1003	1027	1003	1042	874	878	847		365	362	376	375	1941	1877
TOP2_LEICH	10	1238	1117	1158	1156	1102	1121	1130	1173	1177		7	27	24	1818	1754
TOP2_CRIFA	11	1234	1115	1150	1147	1088	1124	1134	1169	1165	193		22	19	1821	1757
TOP2_TRYBB	12	1221	1111	1138	1145	1089	1109	1124	1156	1159	419	416		11	1811	1747
TOP2_TRYCR	13	1221	1118	1154	1157	1084	1113	1136	1161	1161	413	396	275		1822	1758
TOP2_ASFM2	14	2843	2781	2813	2790	2732	2741	2758	2724	2769	2622	2621	2605	2627		206
TOP2_ASFB7	15	2780	2716	2752	2727	2669	2681	2698	2659	2706	2563	2561	2543	2564	333	

Figure 20.15: *A pairwise comparison table.*

The following settings are present in the side panel:

- **Contents**
  - **Upper comparison.** Selects the comparison to show in the upper triangle of the table
  - **Upper comparison gradient.** Selects the color gradient to use for the upper triangle.
  - **Lower comparison** Selects the comparison to show in the lower triangle. Choose the same comparison as in the upper triangle to show all the results of an asymmetric comparison.
  - **Lower comparison gradient.** Selects the color gradient to use for the lower triangle.
  - **Diagonal from upper.** Use this setting to show the diagonal results from the upper comparison.
  - **Diagonal from lower.** Use this setting to show the diagonal results from the lower comparison.
  - **No Diagonal.** Leaves the diagonal table entries blank.
- **Layout**
  - **Lock headers.** Locks the sequence labels and table headers when scrolling the table.
  - **Sequence label.** Changes the sequence labels.
- **Text format**
  - **Text size.** Changes the size of the table and the text within it.
  - **Font.** Changes the font in the table.
  - **Bold.** Toggles the use of boldface in the table.

20.6 Bioinformatics explained: Multiple alignments

Multiple alignments are at the core of bioinformatical analysis. Often the first step in a chain of bioinformatical analyses is to construct a multiple alignment of a number of homologs DNA or protein sequences. However, despite their frequent use, the development of multiple alignment algorithms remains one of the algorithmically most challenging areas in bioinformatical research.

Constructing a multiple alignment corresponds to developing a hypothesis of how a number of sequences have evolved through the processes of character substitution, insertion and deletion. The input to multiple alignment algorithms is a number of homologous sequences i.e. sequences that share a common ancestor and most often also share molecular function. The generated alignment is a table (see figure 20.16) where each row corresponds to an input sequence and each column corresponds to a position in the alignment. An individual column in this table represents residues that have all diverged from a common ancestral residue. Gaps in the table (commonly represented by a '-') represent positions where residues have been inserted or deleted and thus do not have ancestral counterparts in all sequences.

20.6.1 Use of multiple alignments

Once a multiple alignment is constructed it can form the basis for a number of analyses:

- The phylogenetic relationship of the sequences can be investigated by tree-building methods based on the alignment.
- Annotation of functional domains, which may only be known for a subset of the sequences, can be transferred to aligned positions in other un-annotated sequences.
- Conserved regions in the alignment can be found which are prime candidates for holding functionally important sites.
- Comparative bioinformatical analysis can be performed to identify functionally important regions.

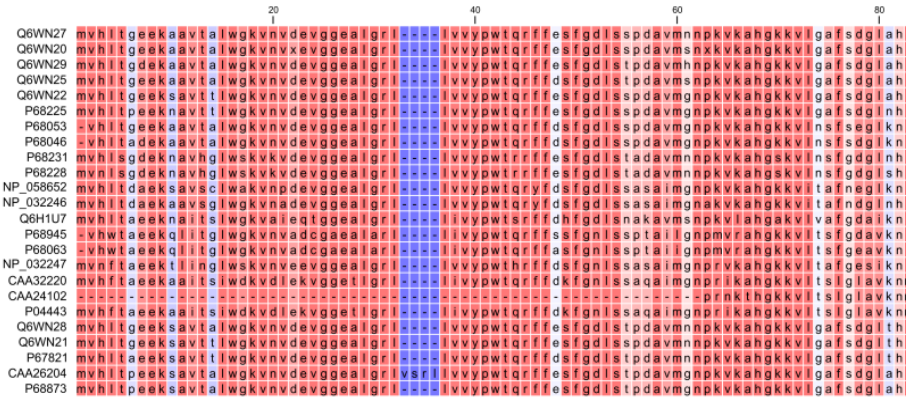


Figure 20.16: *The tabular format of a multiple alignment of 24 Hemoglobin protein sequences. Sequence names appear at the beginning of each row and the residue position is indicated by the numbers at the top of the alignment columns. The level of sequence conservation is shown on a color scale with blue residues being the least conserved and red residues being the most conserved.*

20.6.2 Constructing multiple alignments

Whereas the optimal solution to the pairwise alignment problem can be found in reasonable time, the problem of constructing a multiple alignment is much harder.

The first major challenge in the multiple alignment procedure is how to rank different alignments i.e. which *scoring function* to use. Since the sequences have a shared history they are correlated through their *phylogeny* and the scoring function should ideally take this into account. Doing so is, however, not straightforward as it increases the number of model parameters considerably. It is therefore commonplace to either ignore this complication and assume sequences to be unrelated, or to use heuristic corrections for shared ancestry.

The second challenge is to find the optimal alignment given a scoring function. For pairs of sequences this can be done by *dynamic programming* algorithms, but for more than three sequences this approach demands too much computer time and memory to be feasible.

A commonly used approach is therefore to do *progressive alignment* [Feng and Doolittle, 1987] where multiple alignments are built through the successive construction of pairwise alignments. These algorithms provide a good compromise between time spent and the quality of the resulting alignment

Presently, the most exciting development in multiple alignment methodology is the construction of *statistical alignment* algorithms [Hein, 2001], [Hein et al., 2000]. These algorithms employ a scoring function which incorporates the underlying phylogeny and use an explicit stochastic model of molecular evolution which makes it possible to compare different solutions in a statistically rigorous way. The optimization step, however, still relies on dynamic programming and practical use of these algorithms thus awaits further developments.

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Chapter 21

Phylogenetic trees

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CLC Combined Workbench offers different ways of inferring phylogenetic trees. The first part of this chapter will briefly explain the different ways of inferring trees in *CLC Combined Workbench*. The second part, "Bioinformatics explained", will give a more general introduction to the concept of phylogeny and the associated bioinformatics methods.

21.1 Inferring phylogenetic trees

For a given set of aligned sequences (see chapter 20) it is possible to infer their evolutionary relationships. In *CLC Combined Workbench* this is done by creating a phylogenetic tree:

Toolbox in the Menu Bar | **Alignments and Trees** ( ) | **Create Tree** ( )

or **right-click alignment in Navigation Area** | **Toolbox** | **Alignments and Trees** ( ) | **Create Tree** ( )

This opens the dialog displayed in figure 21.1:

If an alignment was selected before choosing the Toolbox action, this alignment is now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove elements from the **Navigation Area**. Click **Next** to adjust parameters.

21.1.1 Phylogenetic tree parameters

Figure 21.2 shows the parameters that can be set:

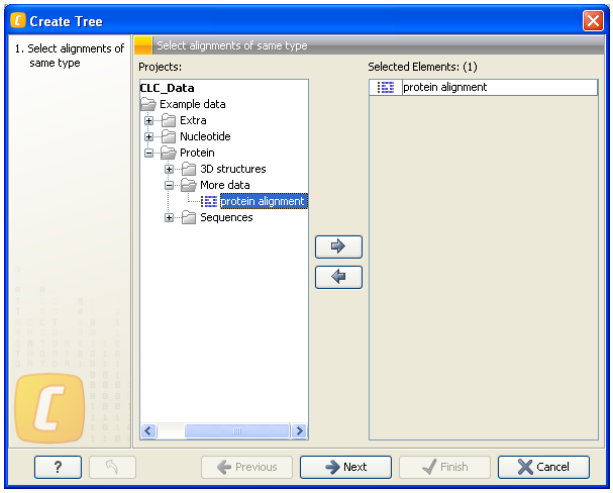

Figure 21.1: *Creating a Tree.*

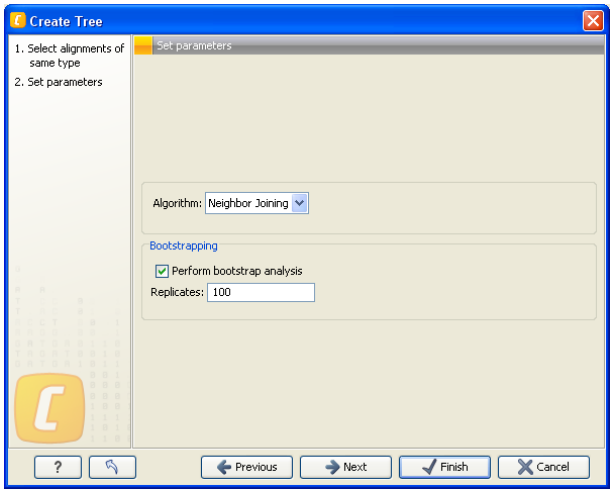

Figure 21.2: *Adjusting parameters.*

- Algorithms
  - The **UPGMA** method assumes that evolution has occured at a constant rate in the different lineages. This means that a root of the tree is also estimated.
  - The **neighbor joining** method builds a tree where the evolutionary rates are free to differ in different lineages. *CLC Combined Workbench* always draws trees with roots for practical reasons, but with the neighbor joining method, no particular biological hypothesis is postulated by the placement of the root. Figure 21.3 shows the difference between the two methods.
- To evaluate the reliability of the inferred trees, *CLC Combined Workbench* allows the option of doing a **bootstrap** analysis. A bootstrap value will be attached to each branch, and this value is a measure of the confidence in this branch. The number of replicates in the bootstrap analysis can be adjusted in the wizard. The default value is 100.

For a more detailed explanation, see "Bioinformatics explained" in section 21.2.

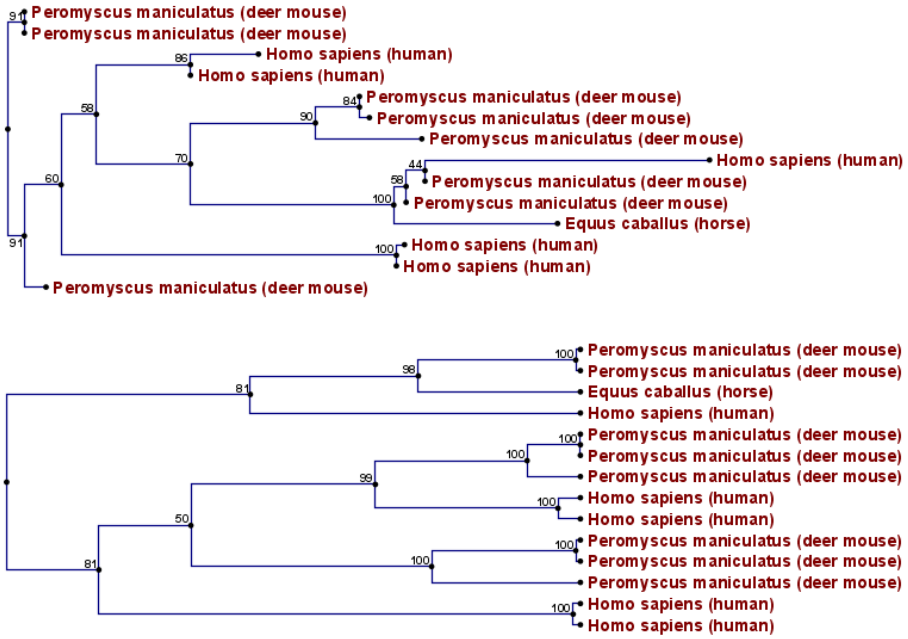

Figure 21.3: *Method choices for phylogenetic inference. The top shows a tree found by neighbor joining, while the bottom shows a tree found by UPGMA. The latter method assumes that the evolution occurs at a constant rate in different lineages.*

21.1.2 Tree View Preferences

The **Tree View** preferences are these:

- **Text format.** Changes the text format for all of the nodes the tree contains.
  - **Text size.** The size of the text representing the nodes can be modified in tiny, small, medium, large or huge.
  - **Font.** Sets the font of the text of all nodes
  - **Bold.** Sets the text bold if enabled.

- **Tree Layout.** Different layouts for the tree.
  - **Node symbol.** Changes the symbol of nodes into box, dot, circle or none if you don‘t want a node symbol.
  - **Layout.** Displays the tree layout as standard or topology.
  - **Show internal node labels**. This allows you to see labels for the internal nodes. Initially, there are no labels, but right-clicking a node allows you to type a label.
  - **Label color.** Changes the color of the labels on the tree nodes.
  - **Branch label color.** Modifies the color of the labels on the branches.
  - **Node color.** Sets the color of all nodes.
  - **Line color.** Alters the color of all lines in the tree.

- **Labels.** Specifies the text to be displayed in the tree.

  - **Nodes.** Sets the annotation of all nodes either to name or to species.
  - **Branches.** Changes the annotation of the branches to bootstrap, length or none if you don‘t want annotation on branches.

Note! Dragging in a tree will change it. You are therefore asked if you want to save this tree when the **Tree Viewer** is closed.

You may select part of a **Tree** by clicking on the nodes that you want to select.

Right-click a selected node opens a menu with the following options:

- Set root above node (defines the root of the tree to be just above the selected node).
- Set root at this node (defines the root of the tree to be at the selected node).
- Toggle collapse (collapses or expands the branches below the node).
- Change label (allows you to label or to change the existing label of a node).
- Change branch label (allows you to change the existing label of a branch).

You can also relocate leaves and branches in a tree or change the length. It is possible to modify the text on the unit measurement at the bottom of the tree view by right-clicking the text. In this way you can specify a unit, e.g. "years".

Note! To drag branches of a tree, you must first click the node one time, and then click the node again, and this time hold the mouse button.

In order to change the representation:

- Rearrange leaves and branches by
  Select a leaf or branch | **Move it up and down (Hint: The mouse turns into an arrow pointing up and down)**
- Change the length of a branch by
  Select a leaf or branch | **Press Ctrl** | **Move left and right (Hint: The mouse turns into an arrow pointing left and right)**

Alter the preferences in **Side Panel** for changing the presentation of the tree.

21.2 Bioinformatics explained: phylogenetics

Phylogenetics describes the taxonomical classification of organisms based on their evolutionary history i.e. their *phylogeny*. Phylogenetics is therefore an integral part of the science of *systematics* that aims to establish the phylogeny of organisms based on their characteristics. Furthermore, phylogenetics is central to evolutionary biology as a whole as it is the condensation of the overall paradigm of how life arose and developed on earth.

21.2.1 The phylogenetic tree

The evolutionary hypothesis of a phylogeny can be graphically represented by a phylogenetic tree.

Figure 21.4 shows a proposed phylogeny for the great apes, *Hominidae*, taken in part from Purvis [Purvis, 1995]. The tree consists of a number of nodes (also termed vertices) and branches (also termed edges). These nodes can represent either an individual, a species, or a higher grouping and are thus broadly termed taxonomical units. In this case, the terminal nodes (also called leaves or tips of the tree) represent extant species of *Hominidae* and are the *operational taxonomical units* (OTUs). The internal nodes, which here represent extinct common ancestors of the great apes, are termed *hypothetical taxonomical units* since they are not directly observable.

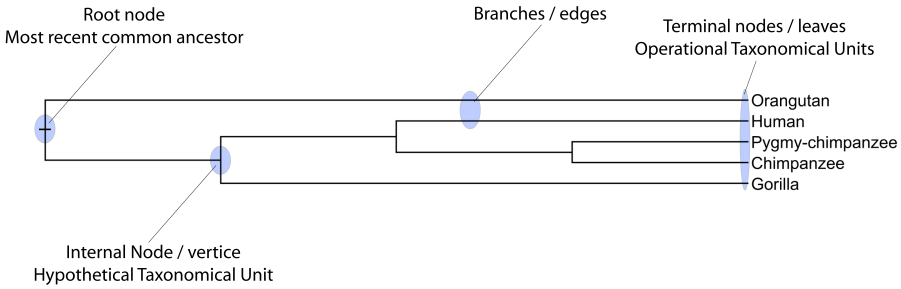

Figure 21.4: *A proposed phylogeny of the great apes (Hominidae). Different components of the tree are marked, see text for description.*

The ordering of the nodes determine the tree *topology* and describes how lineages have diverged over the course of evolution. The branches of the tree represent the amount of evolutionary divergence between two nodes in the tree and can be based on different measurements. A tree is completely specified by its topology and the set of all edge lengths.

The phylogenetic tree in figure 21.4 is rooted at the most recent common ancestor of all *Hominidae* species, and therefore represents a hypothesis of the direction of evolution e.g. that the common ancestor of gorilla, chimpanzee and man existed before the common ancestor of chimpanzee and man. If this information is absent trees can be drawn as unrooted.

21.2.2 Modern usage of phylogenies

Besides evolutionary biology and systematics the inference of phylogenies is central to other areas of research.

As more and more genetic diversity is being revealed through the completion of multiple genomes, an active area of research within bioinformatics is the development of comparative machine learning algorithms that can simultaneously process data from multiple species [Siepel and Haussler, 2004]. Through the comparative approach, valuable evolutionary information can be obtained about which amino acid substitutions are functionally tolerant to the organism and which are not. This information can be used to identify substitutions that affect protein function and stability, and is of major importance to the study of proteins [Knudsen and Miyamoto, 2001]. Knowledge of the underlying phylogeny is, however, paramount to comparative methods of inference as the phylogeny describes the underlying correlation from shared history that exists between data from different species.

In molecular epidemiology of infectious diseases, phylogenetic inference is also an important tool. The very fast substitution rate of microorganisms, especially the RNA viruses, means that these show substantial genetic divergence over the time-scale of months and years. Therefore, the phylogenetic relationship between the pathogens from individuals in an epidemic can be resolved and contribute valuable epidemiological information about transmission chains and epidemiologically significant events [Leitner and Albert, 1999], [Forsberg et al., 2001].

21.2.3 Reconstructing phylogenies from molecular data

Traditionally, phylogenies have been constructed from morphological data, but following the growth of genetic information it has become common practice to construct phylogenies based on molecular data, known as *molecular phylogeny*. The data is most commonly represented in the form of DNA or protein sequences, but can also be in the form of e.g. restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP).

Methods for constructing molecular phylogenies can be distance based or character based.

Distance based methods
Two common algorithms, both based on pairwise distances, are the UPGMA and the Neighbor Joining algorithms. Thus, the first step in these analyses is to compute a matrix of pairwise distances between OTUs from their sequence differences. To correct for multiple substitutions it is common to use distances corrected by a model of molecular evolution such as the Jukes-Cantor model [Jukes and Cantor, 1969].

UPGMA. A simple but popular clustering algorithm for distance data is Unweighted Pair Group Method using Arithmetic averages (UPGMA) ([Michener and Sokal, 1957], [Sneath and Sokal, 1973]). This method works by initially having all sequences in separate clusters and continuously joining these. The tree is constructed by considering all initial clusters as leaf nodes in the tree, and each time two clusters are joined, a node is added to the tree as the parent of the two chosen nodes. The clusters to be joined are chosen as those with minimal pairwise distance. The branch lengths are set corresponding to the distance between clusters, which is calculated as the average distance between pairs of sequences in each cluster.

The algorithm assumes that the distance data has the so-called *molecular clock* property i.e. the divergence of sequences occur at the same constant rate at all parts of the tree. This means that the leaves of UPGMA trees all line up at the extant sequences and that a root is estimated as part of the procedure.

Neighbor Joining. The neighbor joining algorithm, [Saitou and Nei, 1987], on the other hand, builds a tree where the evolutionary rates are free to differ in different lineages, i.e., the tree does not have a particular root. Some programs always draw trees with roots for practical reasons, but for neighbor joining trees, no particular biological hypothesis is postulated by the placement of the root. The method works very much like UPGMA. The main difference is that instead of using pairwise distance, this method subtracts the distance to all other nodes from the pairwise distance. This is done to take care of situations where the two closest nodes are not neighbors in the "real" tree. The neighbor join algorithm is generally considered to be fairly good and is widely used. Algorithms that improves its cubic time performance exist. The improvement is only significant for quite large datasets.

Character based methods. Whereas the distance based methods compress all sequence information into a single number, the character based methods attempt to infer the phylogeny

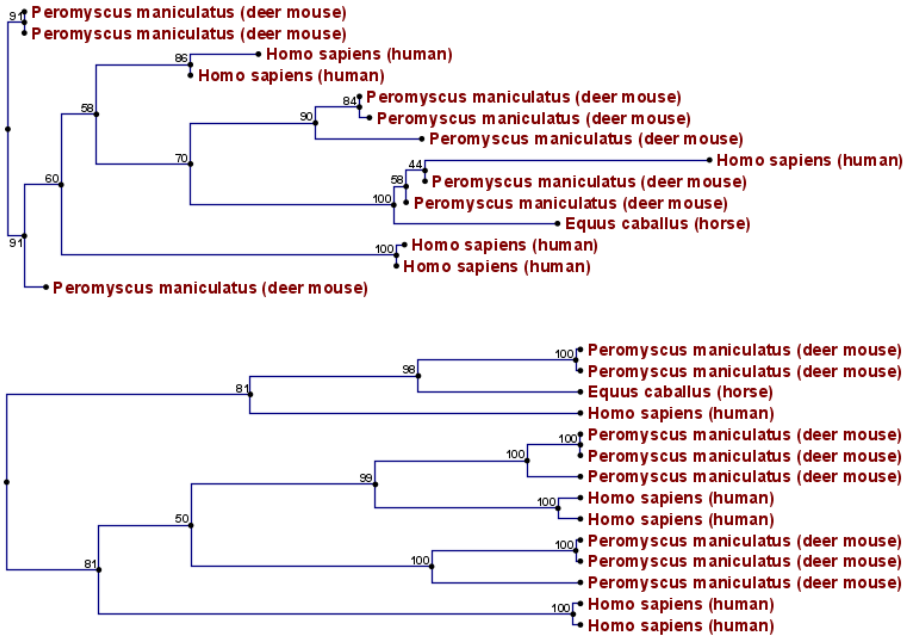

Figure 21.5: *Algorithm choices for phylogenetic inference. The top shows a tree found by the neighbor joining algorithm, while the bottom shows a tree found by the UPGMA algorithm. The latter algorithm assumes that the evolution occurs at a constant rate in different lineages.*

based on all the individual characters (nucleotides or amino acids).

Parsimony. In parsimony based methods a number of sites are defined which are informative about the topology of the tree. Based on these, the best topology is found by minimizing the number of substitutions needed to explain the informative sites. Parsimony methods are not based on explicit evolutionary models.

Maximum Likelihood. Maximum likelihood and Bayesian methods (see below) are probabilistic methods of inference. Both have the pleasing properties of using explicit models of molecular evolution and allowing for rigorous statistical inference. However, both approaches are very computer intensive.

A stochastic model of molecular evolution is used to assign a probability (likelihood) to each phylogeny, given the sequence data of the OTUs. Maximum likelihood inference [Felsenstein, 1981] then consists of finding the tree which assign the highest probability to the data.

Bayesian inference. The objective of Bayesian phylogenetic inference is not to infer a single "correct" phylogeny, but rather to obtain the full posterior probability distribution of all possible phylogenies. This is obtained by combining the likelihood and the prior probability distribution of evolutionary parameters. The vast number of possible trees means that bayesian phylogenetics must be performed by approximative Monte Carlo based methods. [Larget and Simon, 1999], [Yang and Rannala, 1997].

21.2.4 Interpreting phylogenies

Bootstrap values

A popular way of evaluating the reliability of an inferred phylogenetic tree is bootstrap analysis. The first step in a bootstrap analysis is to re-sample the alignment columns with replacement.

I.e., in the re-sampled alignment, a given column in the original alignment may occur two or more times, while some columns may not be represented in the new alignment at all. The re-sampled alignment represents an estimate of how a different set of sequences from the same genes and the same species may have evolved on the same tree.

If a new tree reconstruction on the re-sampled alignment results in a tree similar to the original one, this increases the confidence in the original tree. If, on the other hand, the new tree looks very different, it means that the inferred tree is unreliable. By re-sampling a number of times it is possibly to put reliability weights on each internal branch of the inferred tree. If the data was bootstrapped a 100 times, a bootstrap score of 100 means that the corresponding branch occurs in all 100 trees made from re-sampled alignments. Thus, a high bootstrap score is a sign of greater reliability.

Other useful resources

The Tree of Life web-project
http://tolweb.org

Joseph Felsensteins list of phylogeny software
http://evolution.genetics.washington.edu/phylip/software.html

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Chapter 22

RNA structure

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Ribonucleic acid (RNA) is a nucleic acid polymer that plays several important roles in the cell.

As for proteins, the three dimensional shape of an RNA molecule is important for its molecular function. A number of tertiary RNA structures are know from crystallography but de novo prediction of tertiary structures is not possible with current methods. However, as for proteins RNA tertiary structures can be characterized by secondary structural elements which are hydrogen bonds within the molecule that form several recognizable "domains" of secondary structure like stems, hairpin loops, bulges and internal loops. A large part of the functional information is thus

contained in the secondary structure of the RNA molecule, as shown by the high degree of base-pair conservation observed in the evolution of RNA molecules.

Computational prediction of RNA secondary structure is a well defined problem and a large body of work has been done to refine prediction algorithms and to experimentally estimate the relevant biological parameters.

In *CLC Combined Workbench* we offer the user a number of tools for analyzing and displaying RNA structures. These include:

- Secondary structure prediction using state-of-the-art algorithms and parameters
- Calculation of full partition function to assign probabilities to structural elements and hypotheses
- Scanning of large sequences to find local structure signal
- Inclusion of experimental constraints to the folding process
- Advanced viewing and editing of secondary structures and structure information

22.1 RNA secondary structure prediction

CLC Combined Workbench uses a minimum free energy (MFE) approach to predict RNA secondary structure. Here, the stability of a given secondary structure is defined by the amount of free energy used (or released) by its formation. The more negative free energy a structure has, the more likely is its formation since more stored energy is released by the event. Free energy contributions are considered additive, so the total free energy of a secondary structure can be calculated by adding the free energies of the individual structural elements. Hence, the task of the prediction algorithm is to find the secondary structure with the minimum free energy. As input to the algorithm empirical energy parameters are used. These parameters summarize the free energy contribution associated with a large number of structural elements. A detailed structure overview can be found in 22.5.

In *CLC Combined Workbench*, structures are predicted by a modified version of Professor Michael Zukers well known algorithm [Zuker, 1989b] which is the algorithm behind a number of RNA-folding packages including MFOLD. Our algorithm is a dynamic programming algorithm for free energy minimization which includes free energy increments for coaxial stacking of stems when they are either adjacent or separated by a single mismatch. The thermodynamic energy parameters used are from the latest Mfold version 3, see http://www.bioinfo.rpi.edu/~zukerm/rna/energy/.

22.1.1 Selecting sequences for prediction

Secondary structure prediction can be accessed in the **Toolbox**:

Toolbox | **RNA Structure** ( ) | **Predict Secondary Structure** ( )

This opens the dialog shown in figure 22.1.

If you have selected sequences before choosing the Toolbox action, they are now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or

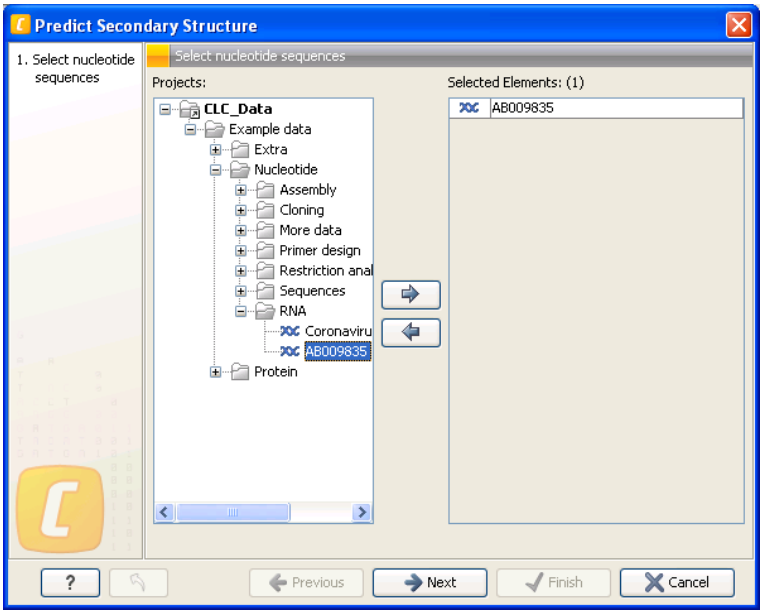

Figure 22.1: *Selecting RNA or DNA sequences for structure prediction (DNA is folded as if it were RNA).*

sequence lists from the selected elements. You can use both DNA and RNA sequences - DNA will be folded as if it were RNA. Click **Next** to adjust secondary structure prediction parameters. Clicking **Next** opens the dialog shown in figure 22.2.

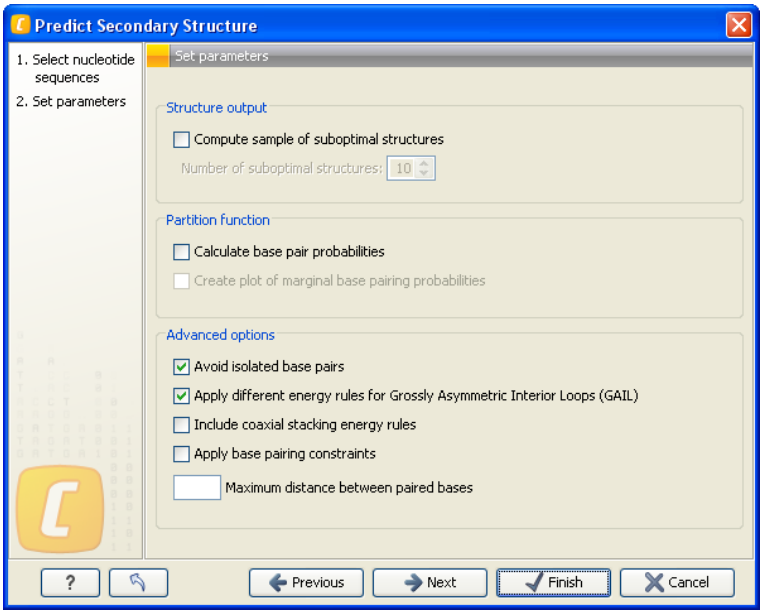

Figure 22.2: *Adjusting parameters for secondary structure prediction.*

22.1.2 Structure output

The predict secondary structure algorithm always calculates the minimum free energy structure of the input sequence. In addition to this, it is also possible to compute a sample of suboptimal structures by ticking the checkbox labeled **Compute sample of suboptimal structures**. Subsequently, you can specify how many structures to include in the output. The algorithm then

iterates over all permissible canonical base pairs and computes the minimum free energy and associated secondary structure constrained to contain a specified base pair. These structures are then sorted by their minimum free energy and the most optimal are reported given the specified number of structures. Note, that two different sub-optimal structures can have the same minimum free energy. Further information about suboptimal folding can be found in [Zuker, 1989a].

22.1.3 Partition function

The predicted minimum free energy structure gives a point-estimate of the structural conformation of an RNA molecule. However, this procedure implicitly assumes that the secondary structure is at equilibrium, that there is only a single accessible structure conformation, and that the parameters and model of the energy calculation are free of errors.

Obvious deviations from these assumptions make it clear that the predicted MFE structure may deviate somewhat from the actual structure assumed by the molecule. This means that rather than looking at the MFE structure it may be informative to inspect statistical properties of the structural landscape to look for general structural properties which seem to be robust to minor variations in the total free energy of the structure (see [Mathews et al., 2004]).

To this end *CLC Combined Workbench* allows the user to calculate the complete secondary structure partition function using the algorithm described in [Mathews et al., 2004] which is an extension of the seminal work by [McCaskill, 1990].

There are two options regarding the partition function calculation:

- **Calculate base pair probabilities.** This option invokes the partition function calculation and calculates the marginal probabilities of all possible base pairs and the the marginal probability that any single base is unpaired.
- **Create plot of marginal base pairing probabilities.** This creates a plot of the marginal base pair probability of all possible base pairs as shown in figure 22.3.

The marginal probabilities of base pairs and of bases being unpaired are distinguished by colors which can be displayed in the normal sequence view using the **Side Panel** - see section 22.2.3 and also in the secondary structure view. An example is shown in figure 22.4. Furthermore, the marginal probabilities are accessible from tooltips when hovering over the relevant parts of the structure.

22.1.4 Advanced options

The free energy minimization algorithm includes a number of advanced options:

- **Avoid isolated base pairs**. The algorithm filters out isolated base pairs (i.e. stems of length 1).
- **Apply different energy rules for Grossly Asymmetric Interior Loops (GAIL)**. Compute the minimum free energy applying different rules for Grossly Asymmetry Interior Loops (GAIL). A Grossly Asymmetry Interior Loop (GAIL) is an interior loop that is $1 \times n$ or $n \times 1$ where $n > 2$ (see http://www.bioinfo.rpi.edu/~zukerm/lectures/RNAfold-html/rnafold-print.pdf).

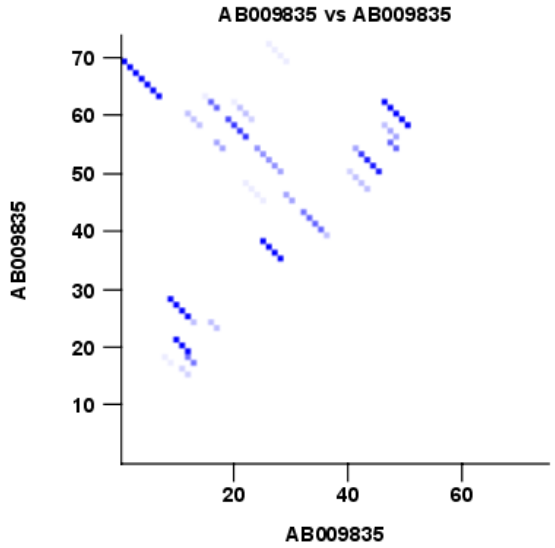

Figure 22.3: *The marginal base pair probability of all possible base pairs.*

- **Include coaxial stacking energy rules**. Include free energy increments of coaxial stacking for adjacent helices [Mathews et al., 2004].
- **Apply base pairing constraints**. With base pairing constraints, you can easily add experimental constraints to your folding algorithm. When you are computing suboptimal structures, it is not possible to apply base pair constraints. The possible base pairing constraints are:
  - Force two equal length intervals to form a stem.
  - Prohibit two equal length intervals to form a stem.
  - Prohibit all nucleotides in a selected region to be a part of a base pair.

  Base pairing constraints have to be added to the sequence before you can use this option - see below.
- **Maximum distance between paired bases**. Forces the algorithms to only consider RNA structures of a given upper length by setting a maximum distance between the base pair that opens a structure.

Specifying structure constraints

Structure constraints can serve two purposes in *CLC Combined Workbench*: they can act as experimental constraints imposed on the MFE structure prediction algorithm or they can form a structure hypothesis to be evaluated using the partition function (see section 22.1.3).

To *force* two regions to form a stem, open a normal sequence view and:

Select the two regions you want to force by pressing Ctrl while selecting - (use ⌘ on Mac) | right-click the selection | Add Structure Prediction Constraints| Force Stem Here

This will add an annotation labeled "Forced Stem" to the sequence (see figure 22.5).

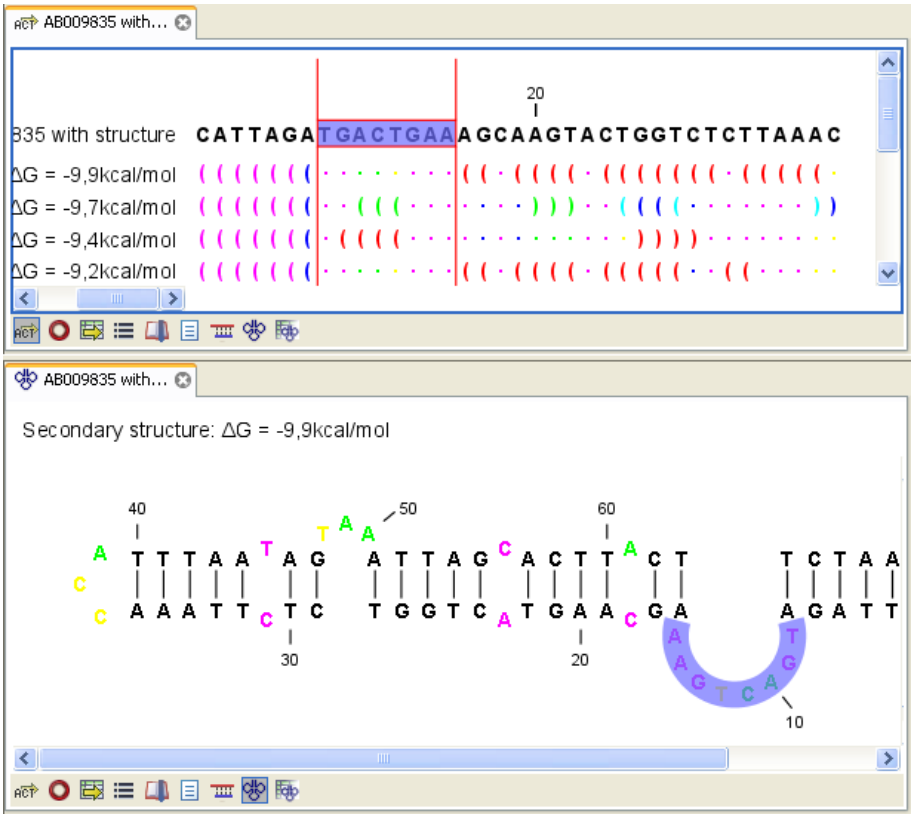

Figure 22.4: *Marginal probability of base pairs shown in linear view (top) and marginal probability of being unpaired shown in the secondary structure 2D view (bottom).*

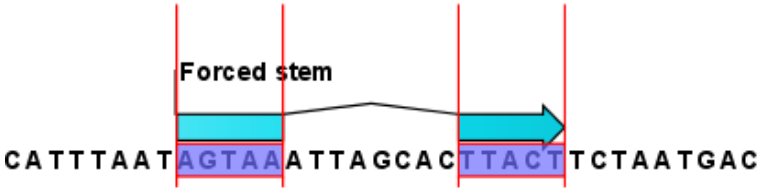

Figure 22.5: *Force a stem of the selected bases.*

Using this procedure to add base pairing constraints will force the algorithm to compute minimum free energy and structure with a stem in the selected region. The two regions must be of equal length.

To *prohibit* two regions to form a stem, open the sequence and:

> **Select the two regions you want to prohibit by pressing Ctrl while selecting - (use ⌘ on Mac) | right-click the selection | Add Structure Prediction Constraints | Prohibit Stem Here**

This will add an annotation labeled "Prohibited Stem" to the sequence (see figure 22.6). .

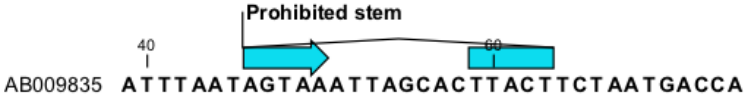

Figure 22.6: *Prohibit the selected bases from forming a stem.*

Using this procedure to add base pairing constraints will force the algorithm to compute minimum free energy and structure without a stem in the selected region. Again, the two selected regions must be of equal length.

To prohibit a region to be part of *any* base pair, open the sequence and:

> **Select the bases you don't want to base pair** | **right-click the selection** | **Add Structure Prediction Constraints** | **Prohibit From Forming Base Pairs**

This will add an annotation labeled "No base pairs" to the sequence, see 22.7. .

Figure 22.7: *Prohibiting any of the selected base from pairing with other bases.*

Using this procedure to add base pairing constraints will force the algorithm to compute minimum free energy and structure without a base pair containing any residues in the selected region.

When you click **Predict secondary structure** ( ) and click **Next**, check **Apply base pairing constraints** in order to force or prohibit stem regions or prohibit regions from forming base pairs.

You can add multiple base pairing constraints, e.g. simultaneously adding forced stem regions and prohibited stem regions and prohibit regions from forming base pairs.

22.1.5 Structure as annotation

You can choose to add the elements of the best structure as annotations (see figure 22.8). .

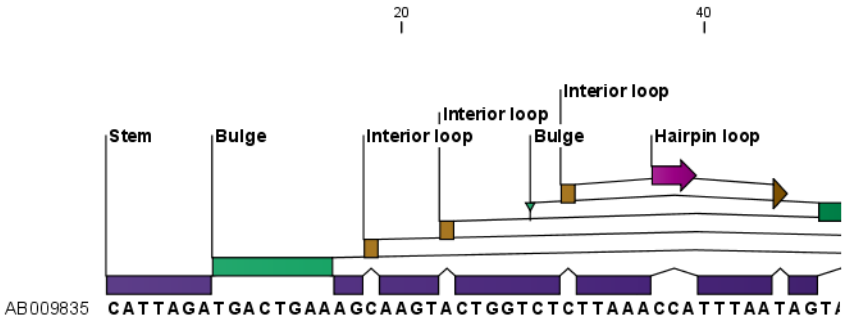

Figure 22.8: *Annotations added for each structure element.*

This makes it possible to use the structure information in other analysis in the *CLC Combined Workbench*. You can e.g. align different sequences and compare their structure predictions.

Note that possibly existing structure annotation will be removed when a new structure is calculated and added as annotations.

If you generate multiple structures, only the best structure will be added as annotations. If you wish to add one of the sub-optimal structures as annotations, this can be done from the **Show Secondary Structure Table** ( ) described in section 22.2.2.

22.2 View and edit secondary structures

When you predict RNA secondary structure (see section 22.1), the resulting predictions are attached to the sequence and can be shown as:

- Annotations in the ordinary sequence views (Linear sequence view (), Annotation table () etc. This is only possible if this has been chosen in the dialog in figure 22.2. See an example in figure 22.8.
- Symbolic representation below the sequence (see section 22.2.3).
- A graphical view of the secondary structure (see section 22.2.1).
- A tabular view of the energy contributions of the elements in the structure. If more than one structure have been predicted, the table is also used to switch between the structures shown in the graphical view. The table is described in section 22.2.2.

22.2.1 Graphical view and editing of secondary structure

To show the secondary view of an already open sequence, click the **Show Secondary Structure 2D View** () button at the bottom of the sequence view.

If the sequence is not open, click **Show** () and select **Secondary Structure 2D View** ().

This will open a view similar to the one shown in figure 22.9.

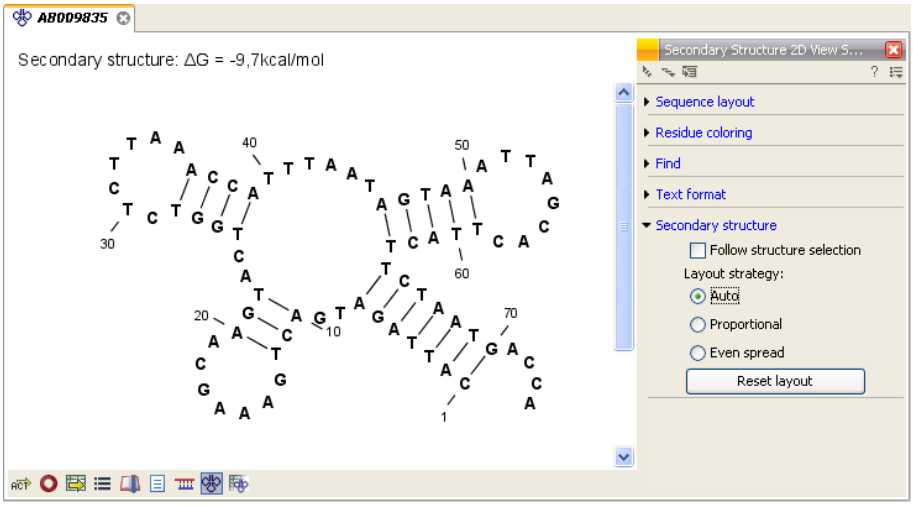

Figure 22.9: *The secondary structure view of an RNA sequence zoomed in.*

Like the normal sequence view, you can use **Zoom in** () and **Zoom out** (). Zooming in will reveal the residues of the structure as shown in figure 22.9. For large structures, zooming out will give you an overview of the whole structure.

Side Panel settings

The settings in the **Side Panel** are a subset of the settings in the normal sequence view described in section 10.1.1. However, there are two additional groups of settings unique to the secondary structure 2D view: **Secondary structure**.

- **Follow structure selection.** This setting pertains to the connection between the structures in the secondary structure table ( ) . If this option is checked, the structure displayed in the secondary structure 2D view will follow the structure selections made in this table. See section 22.2.2 for more information.
- **Layout strategy**. Specify the strategy used for the layout of the structure. In addition to these strategies, you can also modify the layout manually as explained in the next section.
  - **Auto.** The layout is adjusted to minimize overlapping structure elements [Han et al., 1999]. This is the default setting (see figure 22.10).
  - **Proportional.** Arc lengths are proportional to the number of residues (see figure 22.11). Nothing is done to prevent overlap.
  - **Even spread.** Stems are spread evenly around loops as shown in figure 22.12.
- **Reset layout.** If you have manually modified the layout of the structure, clicking this button will reset the structure to the way it was laid out when it was created.

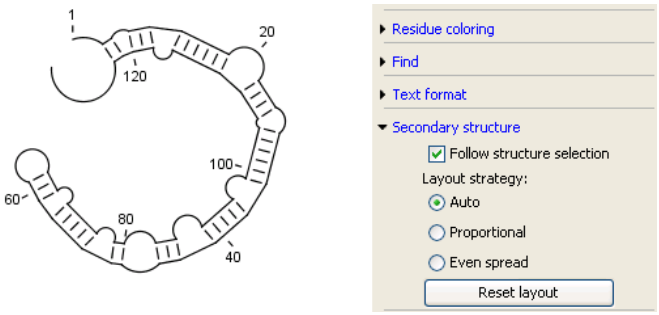

Figure 22.10: *Auto layout. Overlaps are minimized.*

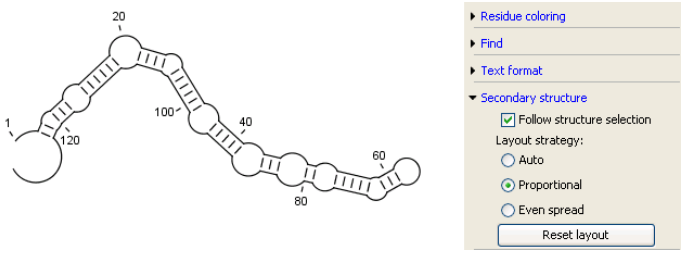

Figure 22.11: *Proportional layout. Length of the arc is proportional to the number of residues in the arc.*

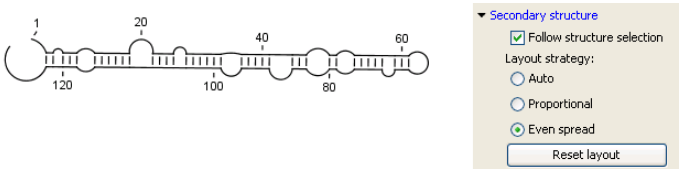

Figure 22.12: *Even spread. Stems are spread evenly around loops.*

Selecting and editing

When you are in **Selection mode** ( ), you can select parts of the structure like in a normal sequence view:

Press down the mouse button where the selection should start | move the mouse cursor to where the selection should end | release the mouse button

One of the advantages of the secondary structure 2D view is that it is integrated with other views of the same sequence. This means that any selection made in this view will be reflected in other views (see figure 22.13).

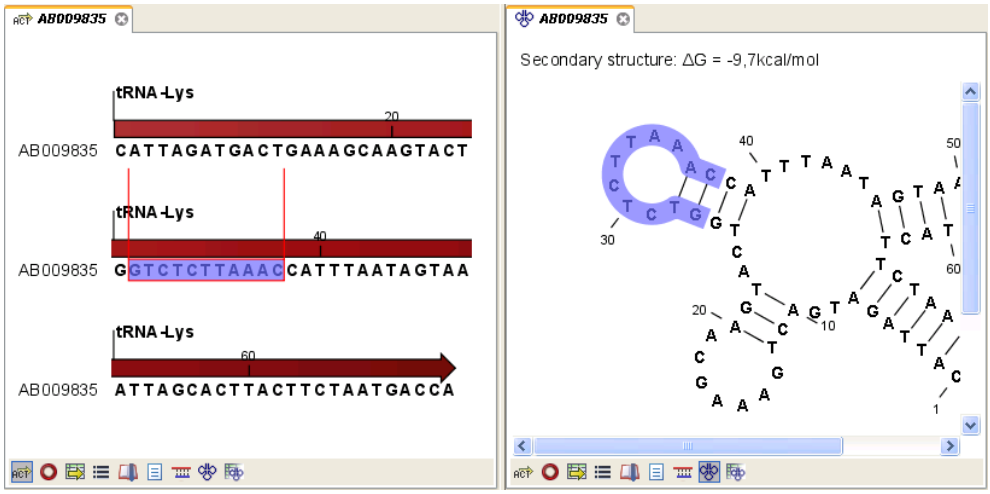

Figure 22.13: *A split view of the secondary structure view and a linear sequence view.*

If you make a selection in another sequence view, this will will also be reflected in the secondary structure view.

The *CLC Combined Workbench* seeks to produce a layout of the structure where none of the elements overlap. However, it may be desirable to manually edit the layout of a structure for ease of understanding or for the purpose of publication.

To edit a structure, first select the **Pan** ( ) mode in the Tool bar. Now place the mouse cursor on the opening of a stem, and a visual indication of the anchor point for turning the substructure will be shown (see figure 22.14).

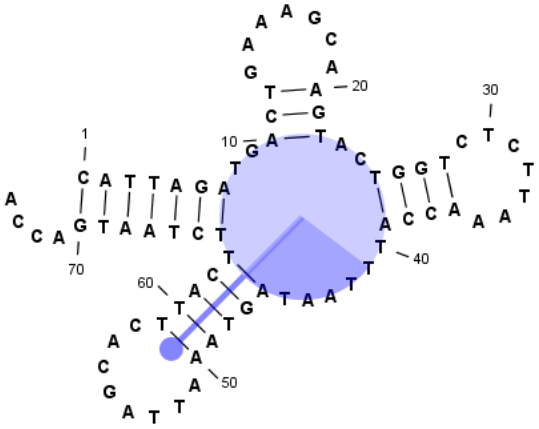

Figure 22.14: *The blue circle represents the anchor point for rotating the substructure.*

Click and drag to rotate the part of the structure represented by the line going from the anchor point. In order to keep the bases in a relatively sequential arrangement, there is a restriction

on how much the substructure can be rotated. The highlighted part of the circle represents the angle where rotating is allowed.

In figure 22.15, the structure shown in figure 22.14 has been modified by dragging with the mouse.

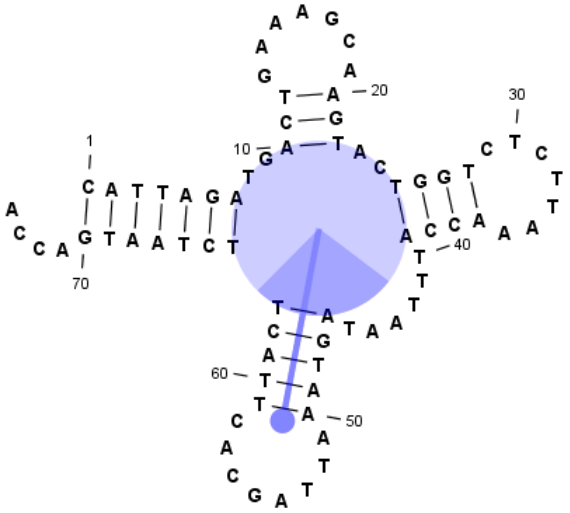

Figure 22.15: *The structure has now been rotated.*

Press **Reset layout** in the **Side Panel** to reset the layout to the way it looked when the structure was predicted.

22.2.2 Tabular view of structures and energy contributions

There are three main reasons to use the **Secondary structure table**:

- If more than one structure is predicted (see section 22.1), the table provides an overview of all the structures which have been predicted.
- With multiple structures you can use the table to determine which structure should be displayed in the Secondary structure 2D view (see section 22.2.1).
- The table contains a hierarchical display of the elements in the structure with detailed information about each element's energy contribution.

To show the secondary structure table of an already open sequence, click the **Show Secondary Structure Table** ( ) button at the bottom of the sequence view.

If the sequence is not open, click **Show** ( ) and select **Secondary Structure Table** ( ).

This will open a view similar to the one shown in figure 22.16.

On the left side, all computed structures are listed with the information about structure name, when the structure was created, the free energy of the structure and the probability of the structure if the partition function was calculated. Selecting a row (equivalent: a structure) will display a tree of the contained substructures with their contributions to the total structure free energy. Each substructure contains a union of nested structure elements and other substructures (see a detailed description of the different structure elements in section 22.5.2). Each substructure

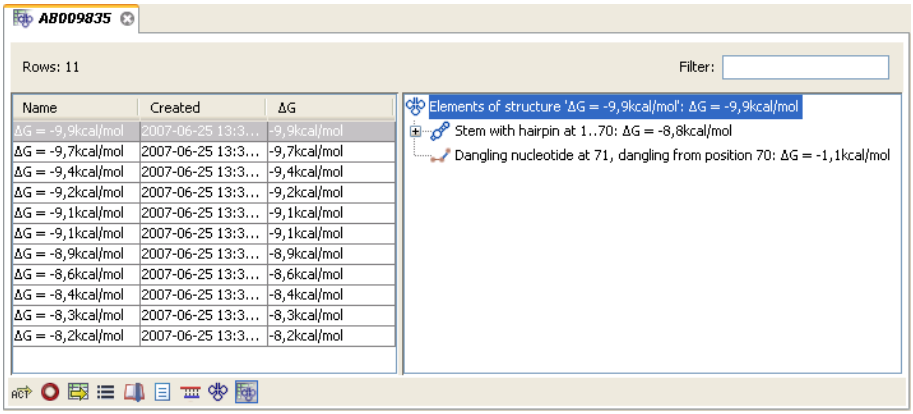

Figure 22.16: *The secondary structure table with the list of structures to the left, and to the right the substructures of the selected structure.*

contributes a free energy given by the sum of its nested substructure energies and energies of its nested structure elements.

The substructure elements to the right are ordered after their occurrence in the sequence; they are described by a region (the sequence positions covered by this substructure) and an energy contribution. Three examples of mixed substructure elements are "Stem base pairs", "Stem with bifurcation" and "Stem with hairpin".

The "Stem base pairs"-substructure is simply a union of stacking elements. It is given by a joined set of base pair positions and an energy contribution displaying the sum of all stacking element-energies.

The "Stem with bifurcation"-substructure defines a substructure enclosed by a specified base pair with and with energy contribution ΔG. The substructure contains a "Stem base pairs"-substructure and a nested bifurcated substructure (multi loop). Also bulge and interior loops can occur separating stem regions.

The "Stem with hairpin"-substructure defines a substructure starting at a specified base pair with an enclosed substructure-energy given by ΔG. The substructure contains a "Stem base pairs"-substructure and a hairpin loop. Also bulge and interior loops can occur, separating stem regions.

In order to describe the tree ordering of different substructures, we use an example as a starting point (see figure 22.17).

The structure is a (disjoint) nested union of a "Stem with bifurcation"-substructure and a dangling nucleotide. The nested substructure energies add up to the total energy. The "Stem with bifurcation"-substructure is again a (disjoint) union of a "Stem base pairs"-substructure joining position *1-7* with *64-70* and a multi loop structure element opened at base pair*(7,64)*. To see these structure elements, simply expand the "Stem with bifurcation" node (see figure 22.18).

The multi loop structure element is a union of three "Stem with hairpin"-substructures and contributions to the multi loop opening considering multi loop base pairs and multi loop arcs.

Selecting an element in the table to the right will make a corresponding selection in the **Show Secondary Structure 2D View** ( ) if this is also open and if the "Follow structure selection" has been set in the editors side panel. In figure 22.18 the "Stem with bifurcation" is selected in the table, and this part of the structure is high-lighted in the Secondary Structure 2D view.

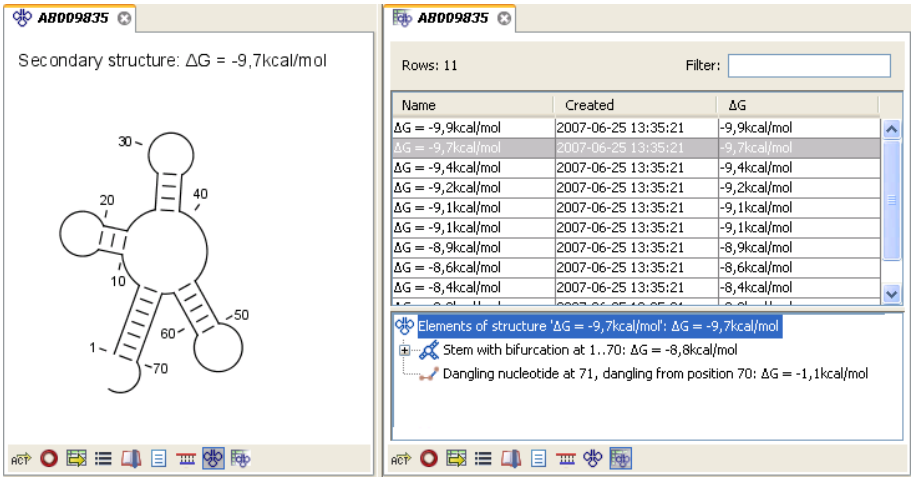

Figure 22.17: *A split view showing a structure table to the right and the secondary structure 2D view to the left.*

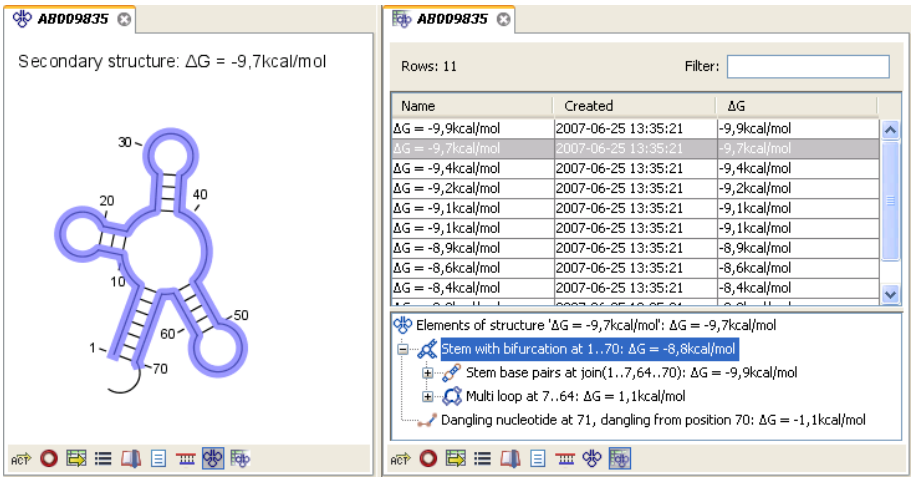

Figure 22.18: *Now the "Stem with bifurcation" node has been selected in the table and a corresponding selection has been made in the view of the secondary structure to the left.*

The correspondence between the table and the structure editor makes it easy to inspect the thermodynamic details of the structure while keeping a visual overview as shown in the above figures.

Handling multiple structures

The table to the left offers a number of tools for working with structures. Select a structure, right-click, and the following menu items will be available:

- **Open Secondary Structure in 2D Viewer ( ).** This will open the selected structure in the Secondary structure 2D view.
- **Annotate Sequence with Secondary Structure.** This will add the structure elements as annotations to the sequence. Note that existing structure annotations will be removed.
- **Rename Secondary Structure.** This will allow you to specify a name for the structure to be displayed in the table.

- **Delete Secondary Structure.** This will delete the selected structure.
- **Delete All Secondary Structures.** This will delete all the selected structures. Note that once you save and close the view, this operation is irreversible. As long as the view is open, you can **Undo** ( ) the operation.

22.2.3 Symbolic representation in sequence view

In the **Side Panel** of normal sequence views ( ), you will find an extra group under **Nucleotide info** called **Secondary Structure**. This is used to display a symbolic representation of the secondary structure along the sequence (see figure 22.19).

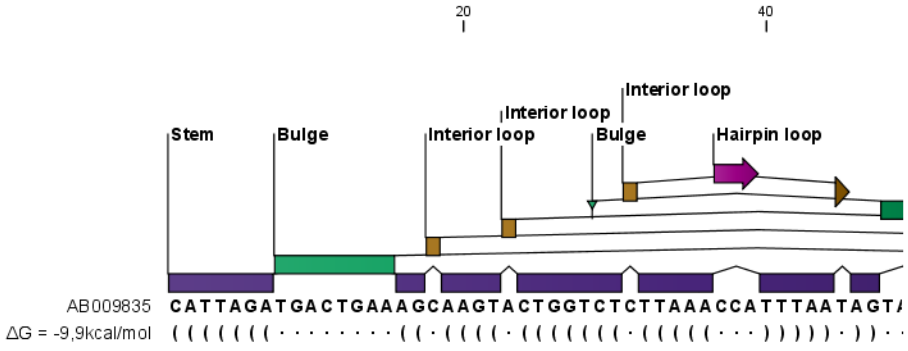

Figure 22.19: *The secondary structure visualized below the sequence and with annotations shown above.*

The following options can be set:

- **Show all structures.** If more than one structure is predicted, this option can be used if all the structures should be displayed.
- **Show first.** If not all structures are shown, this can be used to determine the number of structures to be shown.
- **Sort by.** When you select to display e.g. four out of eight structures, this option determines which the "first four" should be.
  - Sort by ΔG.
  - Sort by name.
  - Sort by time of creation.

  If these three options do not provide enough control, you can rename the structures in a meaningful alphabetical way so that you can use the "name" to display the desired ones.
- **Match symbols.** How a base pair should be represented.
- **No match symbol.** How bases which are not part of a base pair should be represented.
- **Height.** When you zoom out, this option determines the height of the symbols as shown in figure 22.20 (when zoomed in, there is no need for specifying the height).

- **Base pair probability.** See section 22.2.4 below).

When you zoom in and out, the appearance of the symbols change. In figure 22.19, the view is zoomed in. In figure 22.20 you see the same sequence zoomed out to fit the width of the sequence.

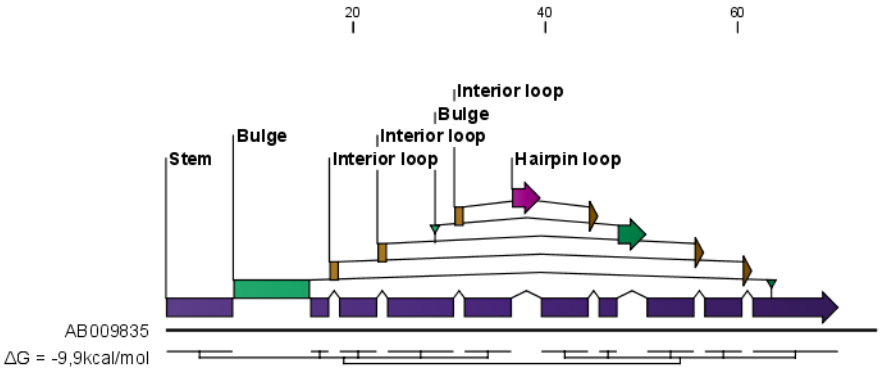

Figure 22.20: *The secondary structure visualized below the sequence and with annotations shown above. The view is zoomed out to fit the width of the sequence.*

22.2.4 Probability-based coloring

In the **Side Panel** of both linear and secondary structure 2D views, you can choose to color structure symbols and sequence residues according to the probability of base pairing / not base pairing, as shown in figure 22.4.

In the linear sequence view (), this is found in **Nucleotide info** under **Secondary structure**, and in the secondary structure 2D view (), it is found under **Residue coloring**.

For both paired and unpaired bases, you can set the foreground color and the background color to a gradient with the color at the left side indicating a probability of 0, and the color at the right side indicating a probability of 1.

22.3 Evaluate structure hypothesis

Hypotheses about an RNA structure can be tested using *CLC Combined Workbench*. A structure hypothesis *H* is formulated using the structural constraint annotations described in section 22.1.4. By adding several annotations complex structural hypotheses can be formulated (see 22.21).

Given the set S of all possible structures, only a subset of these S_H will comply with the formulated hypotheses. We can now find the probability of *H* as:

$$P(H) = \frac{\sum_{s_H \in S_H} P(s_H)}{\sum_{s \in S} P(s)} = \frac{PF_H}{PF_{\text{full}}},$$

where PF_H is the partition function calculated for all structures permissible by *H* (S_H) and PF_{full}

is the full partition function. Calculating the probability can thus be done with two passes of the partition function calculation, one with structural constraints, and one without. 22.21.

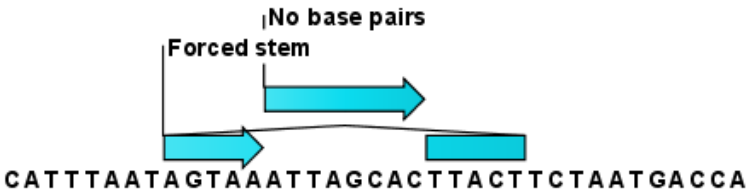

Figure 22.21: *Two constraints defining a structural hypothesis.*

22.3.1 Selecting sequences for evaluation

The evaluation is started from the **Toolbox**:

Toolbox | **RNA Structure (**) | **Evaluate Structure Hypothesis (**)

This opens the dialog shown in figure 22.22.

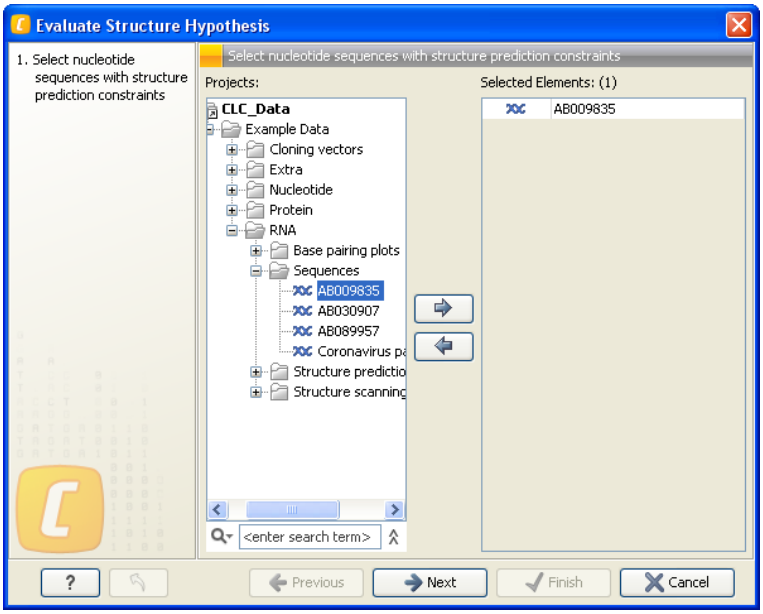

Figure 22.22: *Selecting RNA or DNA sequences for evaluating structure hypothesis.*

If you have selected sequences before choosing the Toolbox action, they are now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements. Note, that the selected sequences must contain a structure hypothesis in the form of manually added constraint annotations.

Click **Next** to adjust evaluation parameters (see figure 22.23).

The partition function algorithm includes a number of advanced options:

- **Avoid isolated base pairs**. The algorithm filters out isolated base pairs (i.e. stems of length 1).
- **Apply different energy rules for Grossly Asymmetric Interior Loops (GAIL)**. Compute the minimum free energy applying different rules for Grossly Asymmetry Interior Loops (GAIL).

A Grossly Asymmetry Interior Loop (GAIL) is an interior loop that is $1 \times n$ or $n \times 1$ where $n > 2$ (see http://www.bioinfo.rpi.edu/~zukerm/lectures/RNAfold-html/rnafold-print.pdf).

- **Include coaxial stacking energy rules**. Include free energy increments of coaxial stacking for adjacent helices [Mathews et al., 2004].

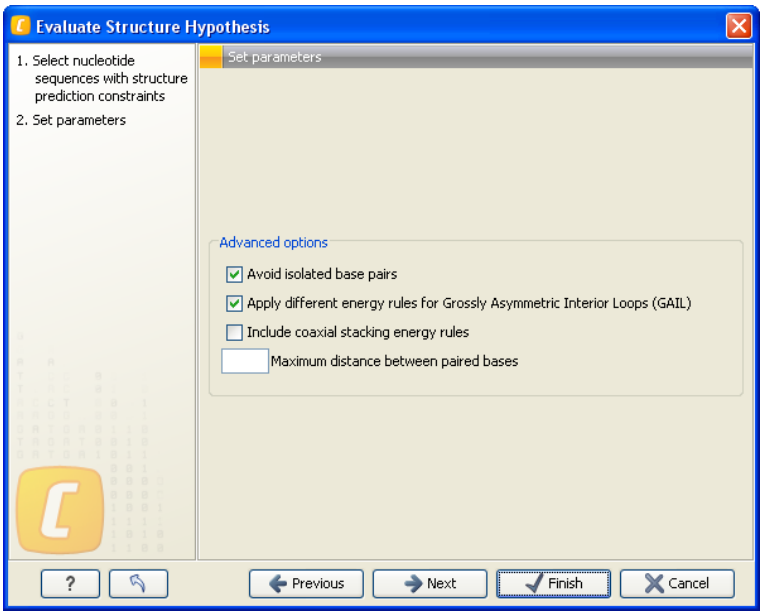

Figure 22.23: *Adjusting parameters for hypothesis evaluation.*

22.3.2 Probabilities

After evaluation of the structure hypothesis an annotation is added to the input sequence. This annotation covers the same region as the annotations that constituted the hypothesis and contains information about the probability of the evaluated hypothesis (see figure 22.24).

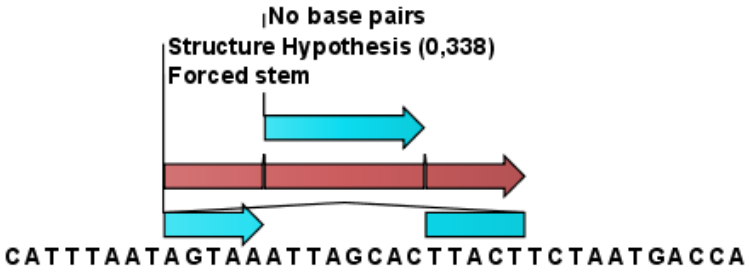

Figure 22.24: *This hypothesis has a probability of 0.338 as shown in the annotation.*

22.4 Structure Scanning Plot

In *CLC Combined Workbench* it is possible to scan larger sequences for the existence of local conserved RNA structures. The structure scanning approach is similar in spirit to the works of [Workman and Krogh, 1999] and [Clote et al., 2005]. The idea is that if natural selection is operating to maintain a stable local structure in a given region, then the minimum free energy of

the region will be markedly lower than the minimum free energy found when the nucleotides of the subsequence are distributed in random order.

The algorithm works by sliding a window along the sequence. Within the window, the minimum free energy of the subsequence is calculated. To evaluate the significance of the local structure signal its minimum free energy is compared to a background distribution of minimum free energies obtained from shuffled sequences, using Z-scores [Rivas and Eddy, 2000]. The Z-score statistics corresponds to the number of standard deviations by which the minimum free energy of the original sequence deviates from the average energy of the shuffled sequences. For a given Z-score, the statistical significance is evaluated as the probability of observing a more extreme Z-score under the assumption that Z-scores are normally distributed [Rivas and Eddy, 2000].

22.4.1 Selecting sequences for scanning

The scanning is started from the **Toolbox**:

Toolbox | **RNA Structure ( )** | **Evaluate Structure Hypothesis ( )**

This opens the dialog shown in figure 22.25.

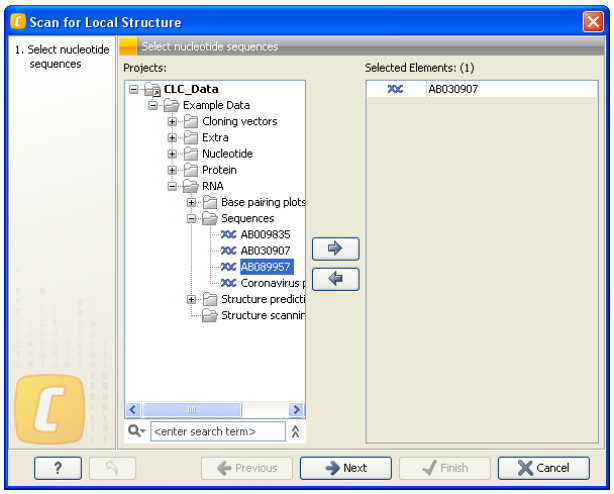

Figure 22.25: *Selecting RNA or DNA sequences for structure scanning.*

If you have selected sequences before choosing the Toolbox action, they are now listed in the **Selected Elements** window of the dialog. Use the arrows to add or remove sequences or sequence lists from the selected elements.

Click **Next** to adjust scanning parameters (see figure 22.26).

The first group of parameters pertain to the methods of sequence resampling. There are four ways of resampling, all described in detail in [Clote et al., 2005]:

- **Mononucleotide shuffling.** Shuffle method generating a sequence of the exact same mononucleotide frequency
- **Dinucleotide shuffling.** Shuffle method generating a sequence of the exact same dinucleotide frequency
- **Mononucleotide sampling from zero order Markov chain.** Resampling method generating a sequence of the same expected mononucleotide frequency.

- **Dinucleotide sampling from first order Markov chain.** Resampling method generating a sequence of the same expected dinucleotide frequency.

The second group of parameters pertain to the scanning settings and include:

- **Window size.** The width of the sliding window.
- **Number of samples.** The number of times the sequence is resampled to produce the background distribution.
- **Step increment.** Step increment when plotting sequence positions against scoring values.

The third parameter group contains the output options:

- **Z-scores.** Create a plot of Z-scores as a function of sequence position.
- **P-values.** Create a plot of the statistical significance of the structure signal as a function of sequence position.

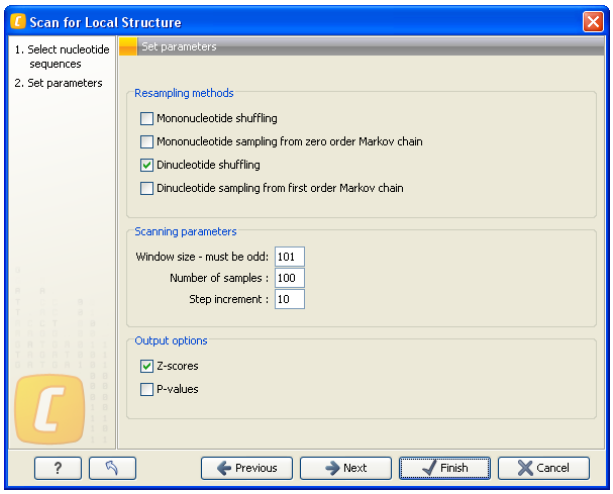

Figure 22.26: *Adjusting parameters for structure scanning.*

22.4.2 The structure scanning result

The output of the analysis are plots of Z-scores and probabilities as a function of sequence position. A strong propensity for local structure can be seen as spikes in the graphs (see figure 22.27).

22.5 Bioinformatics explained: RNA structure prediction by minimum free energy minimization

RNA molecules are hugely important in the biology of the cell. Besides their rather simple role as an intermediate messenger between DNA and protein, RNA molecules can have a plethora of biologic functions. Well known examples of this are the infrastructural RNAs such as tRNAs,rRNAs and snRNAs, but the existence and functionality of several other groups of non-coding RNAs

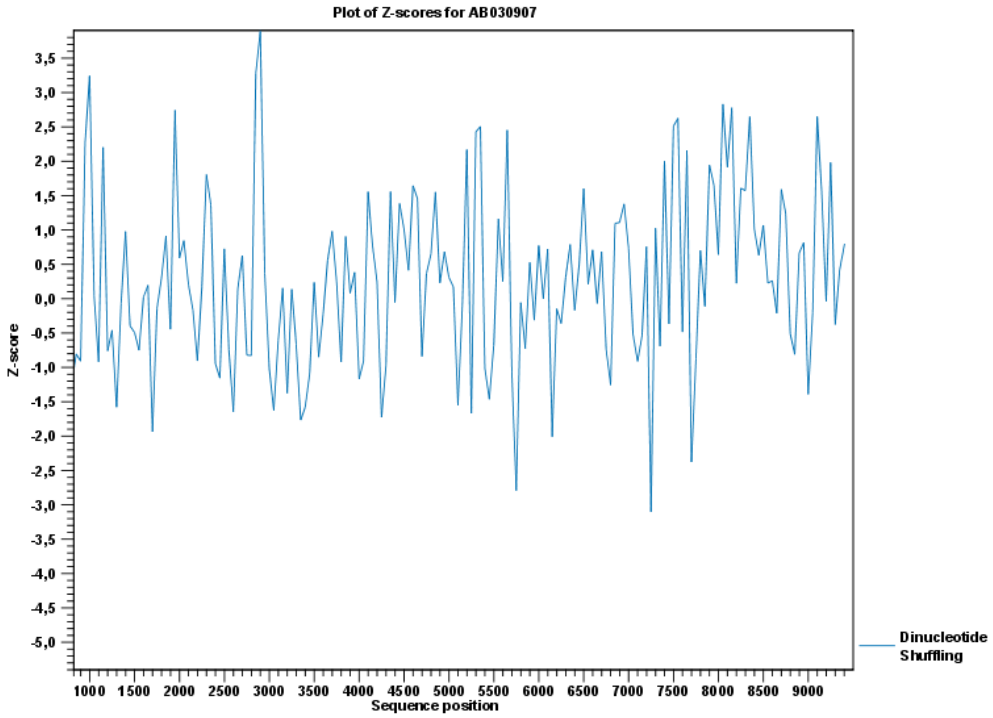

Figure 22.27: *A plot of the* Z*-scores produced by sliding a window along a sequence.*

are currently being discovered. These include micro- (miRNA), small interfering- (siRNA), Piwi interacting- (piRNA) and small modulatory RNAs (smRNA) [Costa, 2007].

A common feature of many of these non-coding RNAs is that the molecular structure is important for the biological function of the molecule.

Ideally, biological function is best interpreted against a 3D structure of an RNA molecule. However, 3D structure determination of RNA molecules is time-consuming, expensive, and difficult [Shapiro et al., 2007] and there is therefore a great disparity between the number of known RNA sequences and the number of known RNA 3D structures.

However, as it is the case for proteins, RNA tertiary structures can be characterized by secondary structural elements. These are defined by hydrogen bonds within the molecule that form several recognizable "domains" of secondary structure like stems, hairpin loops, bulges and internal loops (see below). Furthermore, the high degree of base-pair conservation observed in the evolution of RNA molecules shows that a large part of the functional information is actually contained in the secondary structure of the RNA molecule.

Fortunately, RNA secondary structure can be computationally predicted from sequence data allowing researchers to map sequence information to functional information. The subject of this paper is to describe a very popular way of doing this, namely free energy minimization. For an in-depth review of algorithmic details, we refer the reader to [Mathews and Turner, 2006].

22.5.1 The algorithm

Consider an RNA molecule and one of its possible structures S_1. In a stable solution there will be an equilibrium between unstructured RNA strands and RNA strands folded into S_1. The

propensity of a strand to leave a structure such as S_1 (the stability of S_1), is determined by the free energy change involved in its formation. The structure with the lowest free energy (S_{min}) is the most stable and will also be the most represented structure at equilibrium. The objective of minimum free energy (MFE) folding is therefore to identify S_{min} amongst all possible structures.

In the following, we only consider structures without pseudoknots, i.e. structures that do not contain any non-nested base pairs.

Under this assumption, a sequence can be folded into a single coherent structure or several sequential structures that are joined by unstructured regions. Each of these structures is a union of well described structure elements (see below for a description of these). The free energy for a given structure is calculated by an additive nearest neighbor model. Additive, means that the total free energy of a secondary structure is the sum of the free energies of its individual structural elements. Nearest neighbor, means that the free energy of each structure element depends only on the residues it contains and on the most adjacent Watson-Crick base pairs.

The simplest method to identify S_{min} would be to explicitly generate all possible structures, but it can be shown that the number of possible structures for a sequence grows exponentially with the sequence length [Zuker and Sankoff, 1984] leaving this approach unfeasible. Fortunately, a two step algorithm can be constructed which implicitly surveys all possible structures without explicitly generating the structures [Zuker and Stiegler, 1981]: The first step determines the free energy for each possible sequence fragment starting with the shortest fragments. Here, the lowest free energy for longer fragments can be expediently calculated from the free energies of the smaller sub-sequences they contain. When this process reaches the longest fragment, i.e., the complete sequence, the MFE of the entire molecule is known. The second step is called traceback, and uses all the free energies computed in the first step to determine S_{min} - the exact structure associated with the MFE. Acceptable calculation speed is achieved by using *dynamic programming* where sub-sequence results are saved to avoid recalculation. However, this comes at the price of a higher requirement for computer memory.

The structure element energies that are used in the recursions of these two steps, are derived from empirical calorimetric experiments performed on small molecules see e.g. [Mathews et al., 1999].

Suboptimal structures determination

A number of known factors violate the assumptions that are implicit in MFE structure prediction. [Schroeder et al., 1999] and [Chen et al., 2004] have shown experimental indications that the thermodynamic parameters are sequence dependent. Moreover, [Longfellow et al., 1990] and [Kierzek et al., 1999], have demonstrated that some structural elements show non-nearest neighbor effects. Finally, single stranded nucleotides in multi loops are known to influence stability [Mathews and Turner, 2002].

These phenomena can be expected to limit the accuracy of RNA secondary structure prediction by free energy minimization and it should be clear that the predicted MFE structure may deviate somewhat from the actual preferred structure of the molecule. This means that it may be informative to inspect the landscape of suboptimal structures which surround the MFE structure to look for general structural properties which seem to be robust to minor variations in the total free energy of the structure.

An effective procedure for generating a sample of suboptimal structures is given in [Zuker,

1989a]. This algorithm works by going through all possible Watson-Crick base pair in the molecule. For each of these base pairs, the algorithm computes the most optimal structure among all the structures that contain this pair, see figure 22.28.

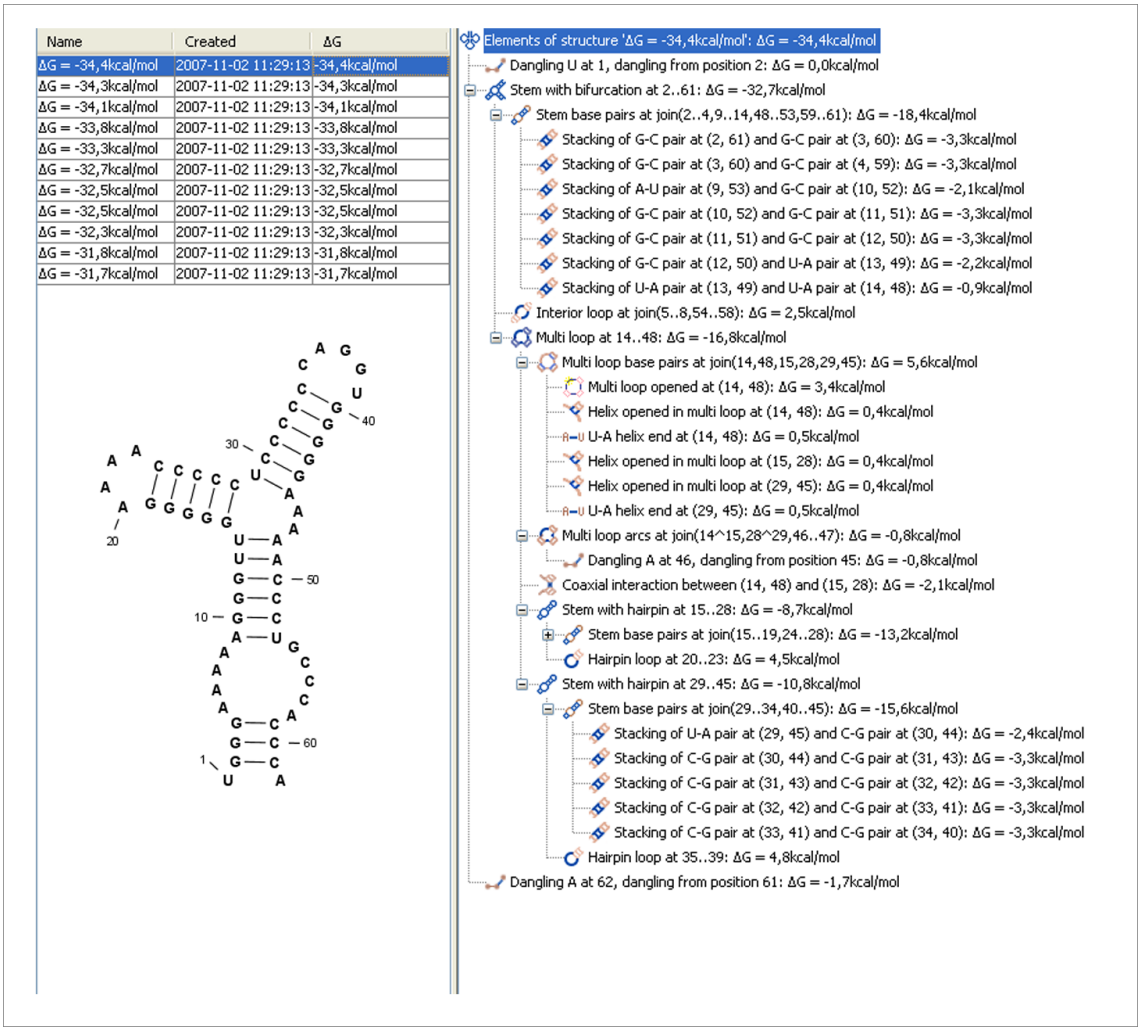

Figure 22.28: *A number of suboptimal structures have been predicted using* **CLC Combined Workbench** *and are listed at the top left. At the right hand side, the structural components of the selected structure are listed in a hierarchical structure and on the left hand side the structure is displayed.*

22.5.2 Structure elements and their energy contribution

In this section, we classify the structure elements defining a secondary structure and describe their energy contribution.

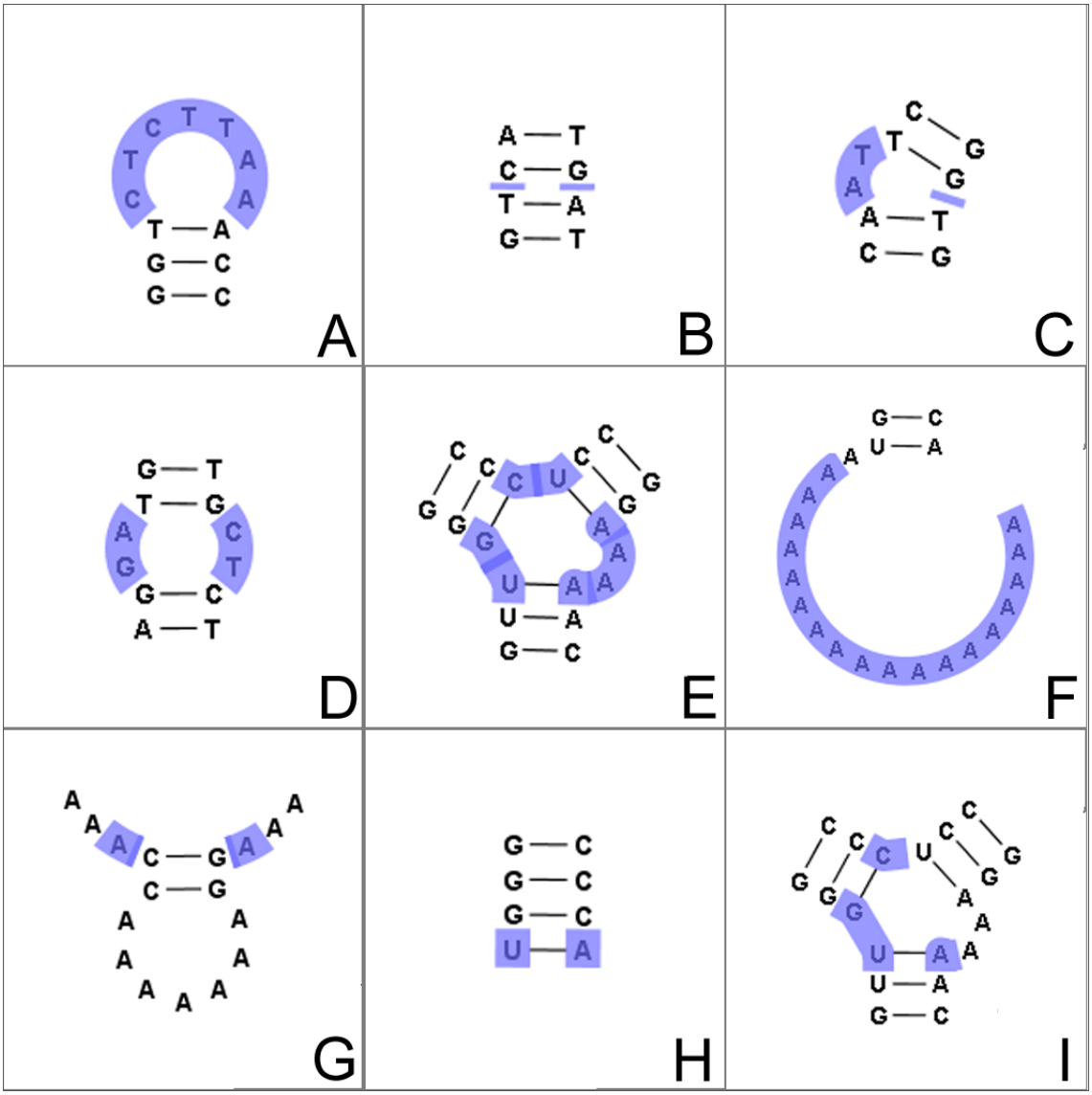

Figure 22.29: *The different structure elements of RNA secondary structures predicted with the free energy minimization algorithm in* **CLC Combined Workbench**. *See text for a detailed description.*

Nested structure elements

The structure elements involving nested base pairs can be classified by a given base pair and the other base pairs that are nested and *accessible* from this pair. For a more elaborate description we refer the reader to [Sankoff et al., 1983] and [Zuker and Sankoff, 1984].

If the nucleotides with position number (i, j) form a base pair and $i < k, l < j$, then we say that the base pair (k, l) is **accessible** from (i, j) if there is no intermediate base pair (i', j') such that $i < i' < k, l < j' < j$. This means that (k, l) is nested within the pair i, j and there is no other base pair in between.

Using the number of accessible pase pairs, we can define the following distinct structure elements:

1. **Hairpin loop ( )**. A base pair with 0 other accessible base pairs forms a *hairpin loop*. The energy contribution of a hairpin is determined by the length of the unpaired (loop) region and the two bases adjacent to the closing base pair which is termed a terminal mismatch (see figure 22.29A).

2. A base pair with 1 accessible base pair can give rise to three distinct structure elements:

   - **Stacking of base pairs ( )**. A *stacking* of two consecutive pairs occur if $i' - i = 1 = j - j'$. Only canonical base pairs ($A-U$ or $G-C$ or $G-U$) are allowed (see figure 22.29B). The energy contribution is determined by the type and order of the two base pairs.
   - **Bulge ( )**. A *bulge loop* occurs if $i' - i > 1$ or $j - j' > 1$, but not both. This means that the two base pairs enclose an unpaired region of length 0 on one side and an unpaired region of length ≥ 1 on the other side (see figure 22.29C). The energy contribution of a bulge is determined by the length of the unpaired (loop) region and the two closing base pairs.
   - **Interior loop ( )**.An *interior loop* occurs if both $i' - i > 1$ and $i - j' > 1$ This means that the two base pairs enclose an unpaired region of length ≥ 1 on both sides (see figure 22.29D). The energy contribution of an interior loop is determined by the length of the unpaired (loop) region and the four unpaired bases adjacent to the opening- and the closing base pair.

3. **Multi loop opened ( )**. A base pair with more than two accessible base pairs gives rise to a *multi loop*, a loop from which three or more stems are opened (see figure 22.29E). The energy contribution of a multi loop depends on the number of **Stems opened in multi-loop ( )** that protrude from the loop.

Other structure elements

- A collection of single stranded bases not accessible from any base pair is called an *exterior (or external) loop* (see figure 22.29F). These regions do not contribute to the total free energy.

- **Dangling nucleotide ( )**. A *dangling nucleotide* is a single stranded nucleotide that forms a stacking interaction with an adjacent base pair. A dangling nucleotide can be a $3'$ or $5'$-dangling nucleotide depending on the orientation (see figure 22.29G). The energy contribution is determined by the single stranded nucleotide, its orientation and on the adjacent base pair.

- **Non-GC terminating stem ( )**. If a base pair other than a G-C pair is found at the end of a stem, an energy penalty is assigned (see figure 22.29H).

- **Coaxial interaction ( )**. Coaxial stacking is a favorable interaction of two stems where the base pairs at the ends can form a stacking interaction. This can occur between stems in a multi loop and between the stems of two different sequential structures. Coaxial stacking can occur between stems with no intervening nucleotides (adjacent stems) and between stems with one intervening nucleotide from each strand (see figure 22.29I). The energy contribution is determined by the adjacent base pairs and the intervening nucleotides.

Experimental constraints

A number of techniques are available for probing RNA structures. These techniques can determine individual components of an existing structure such as the existence of a given base pair. It is possible to add such experimental constraints to the secondary structure prediction based on free energy minimization (see figure 22.30) and it has been shown that this can dramatically increase the fidelity of the secondary structure prediction [Mathews and Turner, 2006].

Figure 22.30: *Known structural features can be added as constraints to the secondary structure prediction algorithm in* **CLC Combined Workbench**.

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Part IV

Appendix

Appendix A

Comparison of workbenches

Below we list a number of functionalities that differ between CLC Workbenches:

- CLC Free Workbench (■)
- CLC Protein Workbench (■)
- CLC DNA Workbench (■)
- CLC RNA Workbench (■)
- CLC Combined Workbench (■)

Data handling	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Add multiple locations to Navigation Area		■	■	■	■
Share data on network drive		■	■	■	■
Search all your data		■	■	■	■

Database searches	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
GenBank Entrez searches	■	■	■	■	■
UniProt searches (Swiss-Prot/TrEMBL)		■			■
Web-based sequence search using BLAST		■	■	■	■
BLAST on local database		■	■	■	■
Creation of local BLAST database		■	■	■	■
PubMed lookup		■	■	■	■
Web-based lookup of sequence data		■	■	■	■
Search for structures (at NCBI)		■			■

General sequence analyses	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Linear sequence view	■	■	■	■	■
Circular sequence view	■	■	■	■	■
Text based sequence view		■	■	■	■
Editing sequences	■	■	■	■	■
Adding and editing sequence annotations		■	■	■	■
Advanced annotation table		■	■	■	■
Join multiple sequences into one	■	■	■	■	■
Sequence statistics	■	■	■	■	■
Shuffle sequence	■	■	■	■	■
Local complexity region analyses		■	■	■	■
Advanced protein statistics		■			■
Comprehensive protein characteristics report		■			■

Nucleotide analyses	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Basic gene finding	■	■	■	■	■
Reverse complement without loss of annotation	■	■	■	■	■
Restriction site analysis	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced interactive restriction site analysis			■	■	■
Translation of sequences from DNA to proteins	■	■	■	■	■
Interactive translations of sequences and alignments		■	■	■	■
G/C content analyses and graphs		■	■	■	■

Protein analyses	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
3D molecule view		■			■
Hydrophobicity analyses		■	■	■	■
Antigenicity analysis		■			■
Protein charge analysis		■			■
Reverse translation from protein to DNA		■	■	■	■
Proteolytic cleavage detection		■			■
Prediction of signal peptides (SignalP)		■			■
Transmembrane helix prediction (TMHMM)		■			■
Secondary protein structure prediction		■			■
PFAM domain search		■			■

Sequence alignment	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Multiple sequence alignments (Two algorithms)	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced re-alignment and fix-point alignment options		■	■	■	■
Advanced alignment editing options	■	■	■	■	■
Join multiple alignments into one		■	■	■	■
Consensus sequence determination and management	■	■	■	■	■
Conservation score along sequences	■	■	■	■	■
Sequence logo graphs along alignments		■	■	■	■
Gap fraction graphs		■	■	■	■
Copy annotations between sequences in alignments		■	■	■	■
Pairwise comparison	■	■	■	■	■

RNA secondary structure	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Advanced prediction of RNA secondary structure				■	■
Integrated use of base pairing constraints				■	■
Graphical view and editing of secondary structure				■	■
Info about energy contributions of structure elements				■	■
Prediction of multiple sub-optimal structures				■	■
Evaluate structure hypothesis				■	■
Structure scanning				■	■
Partition function				■	■

Dot plots	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Dot plot based analyses		■	■	■	■

Phylogenetic trees	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Neighbor-joining and UPGMA phylogenies	■	■	■	■	■

Pattern discovery	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Search for sequence match	■	■	■	■	■
Motif search for basic patterns		■	■	■	■
Motif search with regular expressions		■	■	■	■
Motif search with ProSite patterns		■	■	■	■
Pattern discovery		■	■	■	■

Primer design	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Advanced primer design tools			■		■
Detailed primer and probe parameters			■		■
Graphical display of primers			■		■
Generation of primer design output			■		■
Support for Standard PCR			■		■
Support for Nested PCR			■		■
Support for TaqMan PCR			■		■
Support for Sequencing primers			■		■
Alignment based primer design			■		■
Alignment based TaqMan probedesign			■		■
Match primer with sequence			■		■
Ordering of primers			■		■
Advanced analysis of primer properties			■		■

Assembly of sequencing data	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Advanced contig assembly			■		■
Importing and viewing trace data			■		■
Trim sequences			■		■
Assemble without use of reference sequence			■		■
Assemble to reference sequence			■		■
Assemble to existing contig			■		■
Viewing and edit contigs			■		■
Tabular view of an assembled contig (easy data overview)			■		■
Secondary peak calling			■		■

Molecular cloning	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Advanced molecular cloning			■		■
Graphical display of in silico cloning			■		■
Advanced sequence manipulation			■		■

SNP annotation using BLAST	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Integrated BLAST at SNP database			■		■
Annotate sequence with SNP's			■		■

Virtual gel viewer	Free	Protein	DNA	RNA	Combined
Fully integrated virtual 1D DNA gel simulator			■		■

For a more detailed comparison, we refer to http://www.clcbio.com/compare.

Appendix B

BLAST databases

Several databases are available at NCBI, which can be selected to narrow down the possible BLAST hits.

B.1 Peptide sequence databases

- **nr.** Non-redundant GenBank CDS translations + PDB + SwissProt + PIR + PRF, excluding those in env_nr.
- **refseq.** Protein sequences from NCBI Reference Sequence project http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/RefSeq/.
- **swissprot.** Last major release of the SWISS-PROT protein sequence database (no incremental updates).
- **pat.** Proteins from the Patent division of GenBank.
- **pdb.** Sequences derived from the 3-dimensional structure records from the Protein Data Bank http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/.
- **env_nr.** Non-redundant CDS translations from env_nt entries.
- **month.** All new or revised GenBank CDS translations + PDB + SwissProt + PIR + PRF released in the last 30 days..

B.2 Nucleotide sequence databases

- **nr.** All GenBank + EMBL + DDBJ + PDB sequences (but no EST, STS, GSS, or phase 0, 1 or 2 HTGS sequences). No longer "non-redundant" due to computational cost.
- **refseq_rna.** mRNA sequences from NCBI Reference Sequence Project.
- **refseq_genomic.** Genomic sequences from NCBI Reference Sequence Project.
- **est.** Database of GenBank + EMBL + DDBJ sequences from EST division.
- **est_human.** Human subset of est.

- **est_mouse.** Mouse subset of est.
- **est_others.** Subset of est other than human or mouse.
- **gss.** Genome Survey Sequence, includes single-pass genomic data, exon-trapped sequences, and Alu PCR sequences.
- **htgs.** Unfinished High Throughput Genomic Sequences: phases 0, 1 and 2. Finished, phase 3 HTG sequences are in nr.
- **pat.** Nucleotides from the Patent division of GenBank.
- **pdb.** Sequences derived from the 3-dimensional structure records from Protein Data Bank. They are NOT the coding sequences for the corresponding proteins found in the same PDB record.
- **month.** All new or revised GenBank+EMBL+DDBJ+PDB sequences released in the last 30 days.
- **alu.** Select Alu repeats from REPBASE, suitable for masking Alu repeats from query sequences. See "Alu alert" by Claverie and Makalowski, Nature 371: 752 (1994).
- **dbsts.** Database of Sequence Tag Site entries from the STS division of GenBank + EMBL + DDBJ.
- **chromosome.** Complete genomes and complete chromosomes from the NCBI Reference Sequence project. It overlaps with refseq_genomic.
- **wgs.** Assemblies of Whole Genome Shotgun sequences.
- **env_nt.** Sequences from environmental samples, such as uncultured bacterial samples isolated from soil or marine samples. The largest single source is Sagarsso Sea project. This does overlap with nucleotide nr.

B.3 SNP BLAST databases

The list of databases for **SNP Annotation Using BLAST** ( ) is available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/staff/tao/URLAPI/remote_accessible_blastdblist.html#8.

Appendix C

Proteolytic cleavage enzymes

Most proteolytic enzymes cleave at distinct patterns. Below is a compiled list of proteolytic enzymes used in *CLC Combined Workbench*.

Name	P4	P3	P2	P1	P1’	P2’
Cyanogen bromide (CNBr)	-	-	-	M	-	-
Asp-N endopeptidase	-	-	-	-	D	-
Arg-C	-	-	-	R	-	-
Lys-C	-	-	-	K	-	-
Trypsin	-	-	-	K, R	not P	-
Trypsin	-	-	W	K	P	-
Trypsin	-	-	M	R	P	-
Trypsin*	-	-	C, D	K	D	-
Trypsin*	-	-	C	K	H, Y	-
Trypsin*	-	-	C	R	K	-
Trypsin*	-	-	R	R	H,R	-
Chymotrypsin-high spec.	-	-	-	F, Y	not P	-
Chymotrypsin-high spec.	-	-	-	W	not M, P	-
Chymotrypsin-low spec.	-	-	-	F, L, Y	not P	-
Chymotrypsin-low spec.	-	-	-	W	not M, P	-
Chymotrypsin-low spec.	-	-	-	M	not P, Y	-
Chymotrypsin-low spec.	-	-	-	H	not D, M, P, W	-
o-Iodosobenzoate	-	-	-	W	-	-
Thermolysin	-	-	-	not D, E	A, F, I, L, M or V	-
Post-Pro	-	-	H, K, R	P	not P	-
Glu-C	-	-	-	E	-	-
Asp-N	-	-	-	-	D	-
Proteinase K	-	-	-	A, E, F, I, L, T, V, W, Y	-	-
Factor Xa	A, F, G, I, L, T, V, M	D,E	G	R	-	-
Granzyme B	I	E	P	D	-	-
Thrombin	-	-	G	R	G	-
Thrombin	A, F, G, I, L, T, V, M	A, F, G, I, L, T, V, W, A	P	R	not D, E	not D, E
TEV (Tobacco Etch Virus)	-	Y	-	Q	G, S	-

Appendix D

Formats for import and export

D.1 List of bioinformatic data formats

Below is a list of bioinformatic data formats, i.e. formats for importing and exporting sequences, alignments and trees.

File type	Suffix	File format used for
ACE files	.ace	contigs
Phylip Alignment	.phy	alignments
GCG Alignment	.msf	alignments
Clustal Alignment	.aln	alignments
Newick	.nwk	trees
FASTA	.fsa/.fasta	sequences
GenBank	.gbk/.gb/.gp	sequences
GCG sequence	.gcg	sequences (only import)
PIR (NBRF)	.pir	sequences (only import)
Staden	.sdn	sequences (only import)
DNAstrider	.str/.strider	sequences
Swiss-Prot	.swp	protein sequences
Lasergene sequence	.pro	protein sequence (only import)
Lasergene sequence	.seq	nucleotide sequence (only import)
Embl	.embl	nucleotide sequences
Nexus	.nxs/.nexus	sequences, trees, alignments, and sequence lists
CLC	.clc	sequences, trees, alignments, reports, etc.
Text	.txt	all data in a textual format
CSV	.csv	tables, each cell separated with semicolons (only export)
ABI	.abi	trace files (only import)
AB1	.ab1	trace files (only import)
SCF2	.scf	trace files (only import)
SCF3	.scf	trace files (only import)
Phred	.phd	trace files (only import)
mmCIF	.cif	structure (only import)
PDB	.pdb	structure (only import)
BLAST Database	.phr/.nhr	BLAST database (import)
Vector NTi Database		sequences (import of whole database)
VectorNTI achieves	.ma4/.pa4/.oa4	sequences (only import)
Gene Construction Kit	.gcc	sequences (only import)
RNA Structure	.ct/.col/.rnaml/.xml	RNA structures
Preferences	.cpf	CLC workbench preferences

Note! *CLC Combined Workbench* can import 'external' files, too. This means that all kinds of files can be imported and displayed in the **Navigation Area**, but the above mentioned formats are the only ones whose *contents* can be shown in *CLC Combined Workbench*.

D.2 List of graphics data formats

Below is a list of formats for exporting graphics. All data displayed in a graphical format can be exported using these formats. Data represented in lists and tables can only be exported in .pdf format (see section 7.3 for further details).

Format	Suffix	Type
Portable Network Graphics	.png	bitmap
JPEG	.jpg	bitmap
Tagged Image File	.tif	bitmap
PostScript	.ps	vector graphics
Encapsulated PostScript	.eps	vector graphics
Portable Document Format	.pdf	vector graphics
Scalable Vector Graphics	.svg	vector graphics

Appendix E

IUPAC codes for amino acids

(Single-letter codes based on International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry)

The information is gathered from:
http://www.dna.affrc.go.jp/misc/MPsrch/InfoIUPAC.html

One-letter abbreviation	Three-letter abbreviation	Description
A	Ala	Alanine
R	Arg	Arginine
N	Asn	Asparagine
D	Asp	Aspartic acid
C	Cys	Cysteine
Q	Gln	Glutamine
E	Glu	Glutamic acid
G	Gly	Glycine
H	His	Histidine
I	Ile	Isoleucine
L	Leu	Leucine
K	Lys	Lysine
M	Met	Methionine
F	Phe	Phenylalanine
P	Pro	Proline
U	Sec	Selenocysteine
S	Ser	Serine
T	Thr	Threonine
W	Trp	Tryptophan
Y	Tyr	Tyrosine
V	Val	Valine
B	Asx	Aspartic acid or Asparagine
Z	Glx	Glutamine or Glutamic acid
X	Xaa	Any amino acid

Appendix F

IUPAC codes for nucleotides

(Single-letter codes based on International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry)

The information is gathered from: http://www.iupac.org and http://www.dna.affrc.go.jp/misc/MPsrch/InfoIUPAC.html

Code	Description
A	Adenine
C	Cytosine
G	Guanine
T	Thymine
U	Uracil
R	Purine (A or G)
Y	Pyrimidine (C, T, or U)
M	C or A
K	T, U, or G
W	T, U, or A
S	C or G
B	C, T, U, or G (not A)
D	A, T, U, or G (not C)
H	A, T, U, or C (not G)
V	A, C, or G (not T, not U)
N	Any base (A, C, G, T, or U)

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